Statement

Literacy rates of States

Sl.No.	State/UT	Literacy Rate		
		Male	Female	Person
1	Andhra Pradesh	70.32	50.43	60.47
2	Arunachal Pradesh	63.83	43.53	54.34
3	Assam	71.28	54.61	63.25
4	Bihar	59.68	33.12	47.00
5	Chhattisgarh	77.38	51.85	64.66
6	Goa	88.42	75.37	82.01
7	Gujarat	79.66	57.80	69.14
8	Haryana	78.49	55.73	67.91
9	Himachal Pradesh	85.35	67.42	76.48
10	Jammu & Kashmir	66.60	43.00	55.52
11	Jharkhand	67.30	38.87	53.56
12	Karnataka	76.10	56.87	66.64
13	Kerala	94.24	87.72	90.86
14	Madhya Pradesh	76.06	50.29	63.74
15	Maharashtra	85.97	67.03	76.88
16	Manipur	80.33	60.53	70.53
17	Meghalaya	65.43	59.61	62.56
18	Mizoram	90.72	86.75	88.80
19	Nagaland	71.16	61.46	66.59
20	Orissa	75.35	50.51	63.08
21	Punjab	75.23	63.36	69.65
22	Rajasthan	75.70	43.85	60.41
23	Sikkim	76.04	60.40	68.81
24	Tamil Nadu	82.42	64.43	73.45
25	Tripura	81.02	64.91	73.19
26	Uttaranchal	83.28	59.63	71.62
27	Uttar Pradesh	68.82	42.22	56.27
28	West Bengal	77.02	59.61	68.64
29	A & N Islands	86.33	75.24	81.30
30	Chandigarh	86.14	76.47	81.94
31	D & N Haveli	71.18	40.23	57.63
32	Daman & Diu	86.76	65.61	78 18
33	Delhi	87.33	74.71	81.67
34	Lakshadweep	92.53	80.47	86.66
35	Pondicherry	88.62	73.90	81.24
	ALL INDIA :	75.26	53.67	64.84

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Study on avalanches

†2107. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted or propose to conduct any study on national calamities like land slide and avalanche hitting some parts of the country almost every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any system is in place to identify such places for precautionary measures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Study of all landslides is undertaken almost every year including recurring type, in the northeastern and northwestern Himalayas, northeastern states of the country and also in the western ghats/Nilgiri hills in the southern part of India by Geological Survey of India (GSI). These are carried out to delineate the tentative causative factors and to suggest suitable slope protective measures. India Meteorological Department issues heavy rainfall forecasts which are one of the factors leading to land slides.

Some of the recurring types of landslides studied recently are:

(i) Sonapur slide on Shillong—Silchar National Highway, Meghalaya; (ii) 9-Mile slide on NH-31A, Lantakhola slide, B-2 slide, Elachi slide, Serwani slide etc. in Sikkim; (iii) Paglajhora slide, Darjeeling, West Bengal; (iv) Devastating Varunavat slide, Uttarkashi, Survee slide, Mussouri, Uttaranchal; (v) Bhilar and some other conspicuous slides in Raigarh District of Maharashtra; (vi) Hospital slide, Coonoor, Tamil Nadu.

The study on snow avalanches in India is done by Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE), Defence Research and Development Organization, Ministry of Defence. The focus is on helping troops deployed in snow bound avalanche prone areas in their day to day movement. All

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

avalanche prone areas that affect troops movement in western Himalayan region have been registered by SASE.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There are methodologies by which landslide-vulnerable zones can be demarcated. GSI has already completed inventory of about 1150 landslides spread over north eastern states, northeast and north west Himalayas, western ghats and Nilgiri hills. GSI is also engaged in carrying out landslide hazard zonation mapping on different scales to demarcate the landslide prone hilly terrain into different zones according to their degree of susceptibility to landslides. The main purpose of this study is to guide the planners regarding the land use pattern.

The risk reduction due to avalanches is attempted by the following methods:

(i) Avalanche Awareness

(ii) Avalanche Forecasting

(iii) Avalanche Control

Regular Avalanche forecasting bulletins are issued from SASE to people living in avalanche prone areas about impending danger. Civilian population living in the interior region of Himalayas are also informed through Press Information Bureau and local broadcasting stations about the impending danger.

Study on global warming

†2108. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scientific study on impact of global warming on climate changes, has been conducted;

(b) whether various parts of the country have witnessed such extreme conditions of climate such as tsunami, excessive rains, and drought because of this impact;

(c) if so, the details of areas most affected by climatic changes; and

(d) the details of international deliberations on this issue, various aspects concerning its prevention, and consensus arrived at various fora to overcome its impact?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Many scientific studies on global warming and climate change issues have been made by the scientists of the India Meteorological Department and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology. The studies include, long term trends of temperature and rainfall over different parts of the country, changes in extreme weather events like heat and cold waves and heavy precipitation and trend in tropical cyclone activity over North Indian Ocean.

(b) and (c) There has been an increase in the extreme weather conditions like cyclones, heavy rainfall and drought due to global warming in last 15 years. However, no specific change has been noticed in India except a few events like Mumbai deluge of 2005 or excessive rainfall in Rajasthan in 2006. During the past 100 years, mean temperature over the country (India) has increased by 0.5°C. However, there is no appreciable change in the annual rainfall averaged over the country as a whole.

(d) The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) working under the aegis of the United Nations has submitted its Summary Report on Working Group (WG)-I entitled "Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis".

The main conclusions of the WG-I Panel Report are:

* Global atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and niturous oxide have increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750 and now far exceed pre-industrial values determined from ice cores spanning many thousands of years. The global increases in carbon dioxide concentration are primarily due to fossil fuel, land-use change, while those of methane and nitrous oxide are primarily due to agriculture. Wide spread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level has been reported.

* To the report, anthropogenic warming and see level rise would continue for centuries due to time scales associated with climate processes and feedbacks, even if greenhouses gas according concentrations were to be stabilized.

Impact of increasing temperature of earth

†2109. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether increase in the temperature of the earth is having its direct impact in the country resulting in melting of the glaciers and decline in the thickness of the snow in the Himalayas;

(b) if so, the number of years since its study is being done and the action being taken to check this trend;

(c) whether any direct effect has been noticed so far as a result of the action taken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Regular monitoring of several glaciers during the last 100 years in major basins of Indian Himalaya from Shyok in west to Changme Khangpu (Tista) in the East have revealed that majority of glaciers in Himalayan region are passing through a phase of recession. Observations indicate that during the past 100 years, mean temperature over the country (India) as a whole has increased by 0.5°C.

(b) to (d) GSI has recently initiated study of two glaciers of Bhaga basin *viz.* Mulkila and Yoche Lungpa in July, 2006 which is likely to continue for two more years.

Department of Science and Technology had started an All-India coordinated programme on Himalayan glaciers in 1988 with a Programme Advisory and Monitoring Committee to study the glaciers of Western and Central Himalaya *i.e.* Gangotri and its tributary glaciers and Chhota Sigri glaciers in Central Himalaya. The glacier recession rate varies from glacier to glacier. Preliminary analysis suggests the recession rate to be of the order of about 10 to 15m/ year for some of the glaciers. However, long-term data with wider coverage of glaciers are required to arrive at a consistent recession rate.

Weather forecast by Meteorological Department

†2110. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the issuance of weather forecast by Meteorological Department for the use of farmers since 1977, it is still not reaching the farmers in time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of districts of the country where facility of weather forecast is accessible to the farmers at present alongwith the number of districts which are not getting the same facility?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. India Meteorological Department (IMD) is communicating relevant meteorological information to the farmers on real time basis all over the country. IMD has established specialized centres called Agromet Advisory Service Centre in 23 States to cater to the weather related services for the agricultural community of the country. This information is made available through All India Radio, Doordarshan Kendras, Newspapers, Internet and Extension Wings of State Departments of Agriculture.

Weather forecasts and weather based Agro-advisories are also prepared by the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) based on its forecast models. These forecasts are translated in vernacular languages and disseminated to 107 Agro climatic zones with each zone covering about 5-8 districts. These are transmitted through All India Radio, Doordarshan, Print media, website and personal contact on every Monday and Thursday with four day's lead time. Agromet Advisory Bulletins comprise of expert advise on intercultural operation to be undertaken by the farmers. This includes strategic planning of selection of crop cultiver based on crop and soil conditions alongwith sowing time, seed treatment etc. The advisory also includes adoption of tactical decisions like irrigation scheduling, fertilizer application, pesticide/fungicide spray operation and harvest and post harvest operations.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a).

(c) There are 127 agro climatic zones in the country. Out of these the agro advisories are disseminated to 107 Agro climatic zones that are functional at present with each zone covering about 3-5 districts. it is planned to make rest of the agroclimatic zones functional in a years time.

The advisories over rest of the country are covered through media and State level Agromet Advisory Service Centres.

Development of food processing industries in Sikkim

2111. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted any financial assistance to Sikkim for development and promotion of food processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the total amount released to Sikkim for the purpose during the last three years; and

(c) the details of new proposals formulated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its plan schemes provides financial assistance in the form of grant in aid for over all development of food processing industries in the country. During the Tenth Plan period, the Government has formulated and implemented several Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for the establishment and modernization of food processing units, creation of infrastructure, quality assurance and R&D, human resource development, backward and forward integration, strengthening of State Nodal Agencies etc. besides other promotional measures to encourage development of food processing industries. The Schemes of the Ministry are project oriented and not State specific. Assistance is considered based on complete and viable project proposals received through respective State Nodal Agencies. During the last three years (2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and the current financial year 2006-07), an amount of Rs. 1.52 lakhs has been released by the Ministry under the schemes in Sikkim.

Food processing industries in the country

†2112. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) total number of food procesing industries set up in the country, including Uttar Pradesh, during the last three years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Wether Government have approved new projects for U.P. during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of sanctioned and pending projects during last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs for technology upgradation/modernization/ establishment of food processing units. Food Processing Industries are both in organized and unorganized sectors and as such data of food processing units in the country, including that of Uttar Pradesh, is not Centrally maintained. During the current year 2006-07 (upto February, 2007), 34 units from Uttar Pradesh have been approved for financial assistance under the scheme. State-wise number of food processing units approved for MFPI financial assistance and the number of pending cases during the last three years upto February, 2007 is at Statement.

Statement

State-wise number of Food Processing Units approved for MFPI assistance and pending cases during the last three years (upto February, 2007)

States/UTs	No. of units approved	No. of units pending
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	84	98
Arunachal Pradesh	0	6
Assam	24	21
Bihar	4	5
Chhattisgarh	8	10
Daman and Diu	0	1

1	2	3
Delhi	5	4
Goa	2	4
Gujarat	31	45
Haryana	22	19
Himachal Pradesh	17	14
Jammu & Kashmir	8	22
Jharkhand	5	3
Karnataka	53	44
Kerala	46	37
Madhya Pradesh	19	33
Maharashtra	137	133
Manipur	4	4
Meghalaya	4	2
Mizoram	0	1
Nagaland	2	13
Orissa	8	9
Pondicherry	4	0
Punjab	55	19
Rajasthan	38	50
Sikkim	0	1
Tamil Nadu	68	41
Tripura	1	0
Uttar Pradesh	77	45
Uttarakhand	21	18
West Bengal	41	39

Food processing industries in Rajasthan

2113. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of food processing industries in Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government have sanctioned any new projects in 2007-08;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of project applications received/sanctioned/rejected and pending during the last three years; and

(e) the action Government propose to take to prevent horticultural produce from going waste, due to lack of processing facilities in Rajasthan; and the probable estimate of the waste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (e) Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs for technology upgradation/modernization/establishment of food processing units. Food Processing Industries are both in organized and unorganized sectors and as such data of food processing units in the country, including that of Rajasthan, is not Centrally maintained.

During the last three years upto February 2007, a total of 97 applications were received from the State of Rajasthan. Out of this, 38 cases were approved, 50 cases are at various stages of processing and 9 cases were rejected/closed.

The Ministry has been taking various measures on a continuous basis to prevent wastage of agriculture produce due to lack of processing facilities. Under its infrastructure development scheme, assistance is given to entrepreneurs for setting up food parks, cold chain facilities, value added centres, etc. During the Eleventh Plan, revamped Scheme for infrastructure development envisages, *inter alia*, strengthening of supply chain and Cluster based demand driven farming which will provide cleaning, grading, sorting facilities at farm level, collection centres at Block level and distribution

centres where large quantities can be stored and supplied to Retail for fresh sale and to processing industries for processing. The scheme also envisages provision of reefer vans for transportation of produce from one centre to another at all levels. These measures are expected to result in reducing wastage on account of lack of cold storage and farmer getting better price for his produce.

The Ministry has also adopted Vision 2015, which aims to triple the size of food sector in 10 year's time by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global trade from 1.5% to 3%. The Vision document envisages that the level of processing for fruits and vegetables to increase 10% and 15% in 2010 and 2015 respectively. The Action Plan covers, *inter alia*, research to focus on introducing new varieties in a few identified fruits and vegetables; increase production and productivity through introduction of new plant varieties; marketing and market intelligence measures covering, *inter alia*, amendment to APMC Act to enable direct farmer processor linkages, revamping of Government promotional schemes; and tax reforms/ concessions on fruit and vegetable based processed foods.

Food processing industries in Jharkhand

†2114. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food processing industries in Jharkhand which have been given approval during the last three years;

(b) the names of such food items which are processed; and

(c) the efforts being made for revival of sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs for upgradation/modernization/establishment of food processing units. Under the above Scheme, an amount of Rs. 156.38 lakhs has been approved during the last three years for five food processing units comprising fruit

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and vegetable, flour milling and milk processing sectors in the State of Jharkhand.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries constituted a Task Force for the State of Jharkhand under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Industries), Government of Jharkhand. The Task Force specifically mandated to evolve strategies for development of Food Processing Industries in the State.

EDUSAT for training of teachers

2115. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's educational satellite, EDUSAT, is being used for the training of teachers concerned with our primary, secondary and higher secondary education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the plans for expanding the teachers' training programme with EDUSAT in the next two years; and

(d) the details of States in the country which are not covered by this programme and the plans of Government to bring them also under this training programme in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. EDUSAT is being used by the institutions like Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT), etc., for training and orientation of teachers on the use of new text books developed by NCERT. IGNOU has informed of its plan to expand the coverage of EDUSAT facility for training of larger number of teachers.

(d) As per the information provided by ISRO, the 14 States/UTs namely Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Lakshadeep, Sikkim, M.P., Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, U.P., Gujarat, Chandigarh, Meghalaya have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which is a pre-requisite for installation of equipments for utilizing the EDUSAT facility. The remaining States have been persuaded to sign the MoU.

Corruption in Hindi Granth Academies

†2116. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of staff and officers being involved in corruption in Hindi Granth Academies established in different States during the last two years;

(b) the action taken regarding investigation in every academy and the reasons for keeping the post vacant for more than one year; and

(c) the steps that will be taken to improve the condition and to fill up the vacancies expecially in Bihar Hindi Granth Academy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Government of India has no official information in the matter. The Granth Academies are given financial assistance by the Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology, a subordinate office of Ministry of Human Resource Development. They however, function under the State Government control.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter relates to Bihar Granth Academy and the Government of Bihar.

Addition of new IITs

2117. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to add to the number of IITs that are already present;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to start an IIT in Karnataka;

(c) if so, Government have any plans to start one in Karnataka; and

(d) what are the possible venues for new IITs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) At present, Government do not have any proposal to set up an IIT in Karnataka.

(d) Government has decided to set up three new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

Attendance of muslim children in schools

2118. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the report of Planning Commission 12 per cent of Muslim children in the age group of 6—13 years do not attend school at all;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to encourage them for school education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) As per the report submitted in 2006 by the Social and Rural Research Institute, an agency engaged by the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the purpose of conducting an all India survey of out of school children in the 6—13 years age group, 12.03% of the Muslim children in the relevant age group in rural areas and 7.17% in urban areas were estimated to be out of school.

(b) A Statement is attached (*See* below).

(c) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme and Madarsa Modernization Programme, are some of the schemes being implemented by the Government to improve the educational status of the Muslim children.

Statement

State-wise percentage of Muslim children out of school among children aged 6-13 years

Sl.No.	States	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar*		0.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2.25	2.09
3.	Arunachal Pradesh		
4	Assam	8.52	10.51
5.	Bihar	30.39	13.73
6.	Chandigarh		
7.	Chhattisgarh		0.00
8.	Daman & Diu		28.00
9	Delhi		13.03
10.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		
11.	Goa		
12.	Gujarat		7.70
13.	Haryana	25.54	0.00
14.	Himachal Pradesh		
15.	Jharkhand	17.17	4.12
16	Jammu & Kashmir*	0.24	0.53
17	Karnataka	0.00	2.76
18	Kerala	0.54	0.20
19	Lakshadweep	7.72	9.10
20.	Madhya Pradesh	0.46	3.65
21.	Maharashtra	6.45	3.01

1	2	3	4
22.	Manipur	12.91	10.77
23.	Meghalaya		0.00
24.	Mizoram		
25.	Nagaland	16.46	15.51
26.	Orissa	0.00	4.10
27.	Pondicherry		0.00
28.	Punjab		
29.	Rajasthan	6.53	5.07
30.	Sikkim		0.00
31.	Tamil Nadu	0.89	2.68
32.	Tripura	0.00	0.00
33.	Uttar Pradesh	13.27	15.89
34.	Uttaranchal	5.24	0.00
35.	West Bengal	11.07	12.69
	ALL INDIA :	12.03	7.17

*Incomplete coverage

Expenditure of funds under SSA

2119. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 70 per cent of funds allotted for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan have already been spent by December, 2006;

(b) what is Government's reaction to this fast rate of expenditure on S.S.A;

(c) whether Government have created a perception where expenditure has been viewed as the indication of the programmes success; and

(d) the steps proposed to carefully assess how the funds were spent and what were the on-ground results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The States/ UTs reported expenditure of Rs. 9770.25 crores till 31st December, 2006, which is 74.33% of total funds available with them under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme.

The pace of expenditure by the States/UTs is one of the indicators to measure progress against the Annual Work Plans and Budget. Key physical targets are also monitored quarterly such as school buildings, additional classrooms and other school infrastructure constructed. A rigorous monitoring system of field verifications through independent institutions has also been put into place in SSA.

Higher education in Andhra Pradesh

2120. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of his Ministry that in view of more than expected enrolment of students under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, the enrolment of students in higher classes, in Andhra Pradesh has gone up and in the absence of necessary infrastructure the State has taken Rs. 303 crores from NABARD to improve high school infrastructure;

(b) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh requested his Ministry for providing assistance to the tune of Rs. 1,800 crores since Rs. 303 crores is not adequate to meet the target; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and how his Ministry are planning to support the State in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) According to the information received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, the enrolment in secondary schools has gone up by about 9.9 lakh between 2000-01 and 2005-06 and an amount of Rs. 302.90 crore was approved by NABARD under R.I.D.F. programme for implementation since 2005-06.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Allocation for SSA and Mid-Day Meal

2121. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports published in print media recently;

(b) if so, the amount Government are going to allocate for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-day Meal Scheme during the Eleventh Plan period as compared to Tenth Plan period;

(c) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has put forward the demand of Rs. 30,000 crore in this regard; and

(d) if so, the amount to be allocated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Against a projected requirement of Rs. 28,924.67 crores for the first year of the Eleventh Plan period *i.e.* 2007-08, the following allocations have been made for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme, as mentioned in the Budget document:—

SSA	Rs. 10,671.00 crore
MDM	Rs. 7,324.00 crore

Primary education in Andhra Pradesh

2122. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh stands at one of the lowest place in the primary education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the condition of other States in the country; and

(d) the steps and long term plans proposed to be made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) To assess progress of States and Union Territories towards the goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE), an Educational Development Index (EDI) has been developed to rank States/UTs against key parameters of elementary education. The State of Andhra Pradesh is ranked at eleventh position. State-wise ranking for primary level of education on 2005-06 data is given in Statement (*See* below).

(d) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is being implemented by all States/UTs in order to achieve the goal of universal elementary education.

Statement

Education Development Index for Primary Level—State Ranking

State/UTs	Primary Level
1	2
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	26
Andhra Pradesh	11
Arunachal Pradesh	34
Assam	31
Bihar	35
Chandigarh	5
Chhattisgarh	16
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	29
Daman & Diu	19
Delhi	1
Goa	20
Gujarat	12
Haryana	22

1	2
Himachal Pradesh	7
Jammu & Kashmir	17
Jharkhand	33
Karnataka	8
Kerala	3
Lakshadweep	6
Madhya Pradesh	24
Maharashtra	13
Manipur	23
Meghalaya	25
Mizoram	9
Nagaland	28
Orissa	21
Pondicherry	4
Punjab	15
Rajasthan	18
Sikkim	10
Tamil Nadu	2
Tripura	27
Uttar Pradesh	30
Uttarakhand	14
West Bengal	32

Appearing in other subjects in lieu of maths

2123. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBSE has embarked on a scheme to allow students to appear compartmentally in other substitute subjects if they fail in maths;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent this will affect the level of maths in the country;

(d) what thought had been given by CBSE before finalising this scheme; and

(e) the steps proposed by CBSE to consider all consequences before embarking on such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) As per the proposal with Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Mathematics is proposed to be as a compulsory subject for all students upto Class X. However a candidate who fails in Mathematics in the main examination of Class X and again fails in the first compartment examination may be allowed to have the option of offering an alternative subject in lieu of Mathematics at the second chance or subsequent compartment examination.

(c) Since Mathematics is proposed to be retained as a compulsory subject upto Class X with undifferentiated syllabus and common examination pattern for all students, the Scheme is not expected to affect the level of Mathematics in the country.

(d) and (e) This Scheme was scrutinized by the Examination and Curriculum Committee of the Board and also the Governing Body from various angles. Various implications have been taken into account after detailed consultations. The proposal is expected to facilitate students not passing in Mathematics after repeated attempts, to continue to pursue further studies.

Visa for US scholars

2124. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that U.S. Scholars from certain prestigious universities applying to the Central Government to research on various

subjects of their choice in Indian universities/institutes under the Indo-US Fullbright Bilateral Scholarship Exchange programme are denied visa or do not get clearance from the concerned authorities for months on end or asked to change their topic of research, while the Indian scholars visiting the U.S. under the same programme get the necessary clearance from the U.S. authorities immediately; and

(b) if so, the details with measures proposed to be taken to correct the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Research proposals from foreign scholars are processed in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs, in accordance with the prescribed guidelines/instructions of the Central Government of visa authorization. There is no discrimination against scholars from any country.

Reduction of school fees to compensate petro-price hike

2125. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that developing countries like Indonesia, Malaysia and Ghana have sweetened the politically bitter pill of petro-prices by reducing or waiving school fees for children;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to follow suit; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act 2002 provides for free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years as a fundamental right under Article 21A of the Constitution. School fees for students in secondary and higher secondary classes (IX to XII) are generally quite low in Government and Government aided school, which constitute about 70% of the total number of such schools in the country.

Co-operation between India and Pakistan in education

†2126. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering upon formulating any scheme for the co-operation in the field of education between India and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No specific scheme for cooperation in the field of education between India and Pakistan is under consideration of the Government. However, a Working Group on Education set up by the Indo-Pakistan Joint Commission held its first meeting on 20th February 2007 in New Delhi and identified the following areas for collaboration:

(i) Cooperation between the countries through exchange of information, joint workshops, seminars, symposia, exploratory visits, training and collaborative research;

(ii) Linkages in the higher education sector in the areas of Economics, Business Administration, Agriculture, Health, Law, Information Technology, Science and Technical Education;

(iii) Establishment of institutional linkages, especially through the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and the University Grants Commission of India;

(iv) Exchange of printed material on educational development in the two countries;

(v) Exchange of experiences between National Book Foundation in Pakistan and National Book Trust (NBT) and the National Council for Educational Research & Training (NCERT) in India for the reproduction of books required for education;

(vi) Exchange of expertise and experience in the fields of elementary, secondary and adult education

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Inadequacies in government schools

2127. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are cognizant of inadequate quality of education, educational infrastructure and other necessary facilities in the neighbourhood Government schools despite Government's priority for providing quality education as proclaimed in National Action Plan for children;

(b) if so, whether Government have any programme to improve the situation;

(c) if so, the details of such programme;

(d) whether Government have assessed the impact of such programme of Government run schools; and

(e) if so, the parameters thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is a national programme of the Government of India for universalisation of elementary education under which several activities have been undertaken to strengthen the quality and infrastructure for elementary education. This includes sanctions for opening of 2.4 lakh new schools, construction of 1.83 lakh school buildings and 6.92 lakh classrooms, recruitment of 10.12 lakh additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, in-service training of teachers for a period of 20 days every year, free distribution of text books to 6.69 crore SC, ST & girl students in the primary and upper primary classes and regular academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 6746 Block Resource Centres and 70388 Cluster Resource Centres. A National sample survey conducted in 2005 indicated that only about 6% children in the 6-14 years age group were still out of school, showing a major improvement in children going to schools.

National technological mission

2128 PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in an attempt to avoid criticism for deteriorating education standards, his Ministry have proposed a national technological mission for ushering in technology driven education in institutions of the country;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry have submitted the scheme to the Planning Commission for its approval; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposal and by what time,his Ministry are likely to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) In order to enhance learning effectiveness in the field of technical education by using technology, this Ministry had initiated a Project — National Programme for Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) during the Tenth Plan period, to enhance quality engineering education in the country by developing curriculum based video courses and web based e.courses. Seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), Bangalore have developed web and video based material for basic undergraduate science and engineering courses in order to enhance the reach and quality of technical education in the country.

Computer education in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navyug Schools

2129. DR. M.A.M.RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to impart computer education from fifth standard onward in all Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas and Navyug Schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Computer

education is imparted to students of Kendriya Vidyalayas, from class III and to students of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) from class VI. The New Delhi Municipal Council has informed that Computer Education is provided in Navyug Schools from class VI and that the Navyug School Education Society has a plan to introduce the same from class V from the academic year 2007-08.

Promotion of information technology in schools

2130. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes and programmes formulated and being implemented by Government for development and promotion of information technology in Government schools of the country;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated for computer training in rural areas of the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh during the last three year, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the funds allotted for this purpose are not being utilized by the concerned education departments in the country; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) A scheme called "Information and Communication Technology in Schools" is being implemented by the Government since December, 2004 by merging the erstwhile schemes namely Revised Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) and Educational Technology (ET) with the objective of establishing an enabling environment to promote the usage of ICT in Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools of the country. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to State/UT Governments for imparting computer literacy in Government and Government-aided Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools, and for enrichment of existing curriculum and pedagogy through use of ICT tools for teaching and learning.

(b) No assistance was released during 2004-05. Statements indicating the details of financial assistance released to State/UT Governments during 2005-06 and 2006-07 are at Statement-I and II respectively (*See* below). An amount of Rs. 1000.00 lakh has been sanctioned to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for implementing the scheme in 200 schools during 2006-07.

(c) and (d) Sanctions are issued after considering the proposals received from the State/UT Governments. The State/UT Governments implement the scheme by utilising the funds released.

Statement-I

Details of financial assistance to State/UT Govt. for imparting computer literacy in schools

(i) During 2005-06

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of schools approved	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)	Adjustment of unspent balance of previous years/ other schemes (Rs. in lakh)	Amount released (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	154	928.62	19.50	444.81
2.	Bihar	180	900.00	225.00	0.00
3.	Goa	230	1150.00	0.00	292.50
4.	Haryana	100	500.00	19.50	230.50
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	140	844.20	90.00	0.00
6.	Karnataka	480	2400.00	0.00	1200.00
7.	Kerala	125	625.00	0.00	312.50
8.	Madhya Pradesh	230	1150.00	575.00	0.00
9.	Mizoram	60	306.18	0.00	150.00
10.	Nagaland	53	319.59	0.00	319.59
11.	Orissa	200	1000.00	500.00	0.00
12.	Punjab	200	1000.00	500.00	0.00
13.	Rajasthan	100	500.00	446.74	53.26
14.	Sikkim	103	621.09	0.00	270.00
15.	Tamil Nadu	125	625.00	310.40	2.10
16.	Uttarakhand	25	150.75	0.00	75.00
17.	West Bengal	200	1000.00	0.00	393.17
18.	Daman and Diu	15	75.00	8.70	25.00
	TOTAL :	2720	14095.43	2694.84	3768.43

Statement-II

(ii) During 2006-07

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of schools approved	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)	Adjustment of unspent balance of previous years/ other schemes (Rs. in lakh)	Amount released (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	200	1000.00	299.72	200.28
2.	Chhattisgarh	100	500.00	2.30	247.70
3.	Gujarat	150	750.00	375.00	0.00
4.	Maharashtra	200	1000.00	337.50	0.00
5.	Nagaland	147	886.41	0.00	443.21
6.	Tripura	125	753.75	0.00	376.88
7.	Uttar Pradesh	200	1000.00	500.00	0.00
8.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	12	60.00	30.00	0.00
9.	Chandigarh	20	100.00	14.80	35.20
10.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6	30.00	6.56	0.00
11.	Delhi	75	375.00	134.60	40.53
12.	Lakshadweep	12	60.00	21.60	8.40
13.	Pondicherry	25	125.00	12.80	34.47
	TOTAL :	1272	6640.16	1734.88	1386.67

NB: In addition, a sum of Rs. 517.26 lakh (Rs. 267.26 lakh for Government of Arunachal Pradesh and Rs. 250.00 lakh for Government of Haryana) has been released as second instalment in respect of some schools already approved in 2005-06.

Recommendation of C.N.R. Rao Committee

2131. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a recommendation received by Government from Prof. C.N.R. Rao Committee to set up Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh for higher education and promoting quality teaching and research;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereupon by Government; and

(c) by when the above institution is likely to be set up in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Financial hurdles in OBC reservation

2132. SHRI K.P.K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are hurdles in his Ministry's endeavours to get enough funds to implement new proposals with reference to the O.B.C. quota expansion to Higher Education from the academic year 2007-08;

(b) whether since this involves emotive problems and the Ministries of Human Resource Development and Finance would sit jointly with the Planning Commission to evolve an amicable solution; and

(c) whether special funds will be earmarked for the implementation of all the recommendations of the Oversight Committee headed by Veerappa Moily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An amount of Rs. 2698.00 crores has been provided in the budget estimates of the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2007-08 for implementation of the Central Education Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006.

Expansion of Navodaya Vidyalayas

2133. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has identified 200 districts with predominantly SC/ST population, based on 2001 census, for expanding the Navodaya Vidyalayas;

(b) whether this proposed expansion of Navodaya Vidyalayas will be taken up from the current budget year and if so, whether adequate allocation have been made in the current budget; and

(c) whether reservation for SC/ST communities in these schools will be in accordance with the Apex Court's directives capping the reservation limit to 50 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Planning Commission has intimated that a proposal to set.up Navodaya Vidyalayas in those districts which have significant Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population was placed before the Group of Ministers on Dalit Affairs. The proposal comprised 208 districts on the basis of 2001 census figures. Planning Commission has further informed that no formal decision has been taken in the matter. A provision of Rs. 275.00 crore has been made for the purpose in the budget for 2007-08.

Utilisation of funds under SSA

2134. SHRI B.K HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state.

(a) whether the fund utilization for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the year ended 31st December, 2006 has improved with Government utilizing more than 75 per cent of the funds available;

(b) whether States like Assam and Orissa, lagging behind earlier, have shown increased utilization of funds; and

(c) whether the improved fund utilization for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is attributed to better project management and a dedicated and motivated team at the ground level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The States/UTs reported expenditure of Rs. 9770.25 crores till 31st December, 2006, which is 74.33% of total funds available with them under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme.

(b) Assam and Orissa have reported expenditure of Rs. 221.96 crores and Rs. 313.39 crores *i.e.* 55.60% and 61.45% respectively as on 31st

December, 2006 as against Rs. 216.77 crore *i.e.* 68.83% and Rs. 343.07 crore *i.e.* 56.72% as on 31st December, 2005 against the funds available with them for SSA.

(c) The regular monitoring of physical and financial progress by the Ministry has improved fund utilization.

Institutional framework of EDUSAT

2135. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered it appropriate to set up an institutional framework to integrate, promote, coordinate and optimize the capability and capacity of EDUSAT, the country's Space system, for curriculum based distance-education, enrichment, training and developmental communication;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the details of the existing institutional mechanisms between his Ministry and its associate bodies like UGC, Professional Bodies, Open Universities and State Institutions to effectively use this important space resource to augment and strengthen the existing methods of education, training and enrichment;

(d) whether there is an assessment of the adequacy of the existing institutional mechanism; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) A core group under the Chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was set up to act as a focal point for utilizing the EDUSAT facility.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Permission of FDI in higher education

2136. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit FDI in higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether under twinning programme, a number of private institutes in the country, including deemed universities under private management, are conducting a number of courses, including engineering technical courses etc. jointly with similar institutes located abroad, particularly, under developed and developing nations;

(d) if so, the details of the Indian institutes conducting such courses;

(e) whether these institutes charge exorbitant fees from the students;

(f) whether there is any authority regulating fee, course and quality of such programme; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) By virtue of Press Note 2 (2000 Series) dated the 11th February, 2000 of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government has allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% on the automatic route in the Education Sector.

(c) to (g) No centralized data is maintained on twinning programmes between private institutions in India and similar institutes abroad. According to the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the Council have not approved any twinning programme with foreign education providers under its 'Regulation for Entry and Operation of Foreign Universities/ Institutions Imparting Technical Education in India', although they have approved three institutions in India with foreign collaboration. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved off-shore campuses of the following deemed to be universities under private management:—

(i) Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, Karnataka, at Kualalampur, Dubai and Oman.

(ii) Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, Rajasthan, at Dubai, and

(iii) Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi, Jharkhand, at Muscat.

As per the guidelines for the deemed to be universities, in the case of self-financing institutions, fees to be prescribed shall be as per regulations under the UGC Act, 1956. As per the Regulation of the AICTE, the fee to be charged in each course to be offered by a foreign university/institution leading to a degree or a diploma shall be as prescribed by the AICTE.

Financial assistance to State Governments under SSA

2137. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance given to State Government all over the country during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 in the name of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) the specific areas the State Governments are supposed to spend the above grants;

(c) whether Government carried out any monitoring or audit for the grants given to State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details of such monitoring and audit and also actions taken against the State who have not spent the money as required under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The details of funds released to States and Union Territories for the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) by the Central Government is in Statement (*See* below). Funds are released under the programme as per approved activities of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, which includes *inter alia* activities to promote access, retention and quality of learning in the elementary education sector.

(c) and (d) A system of regular financial monitoring is in place in SSA, through quarterly reviews with States and external verification through independent organizations. Audit arrangements under the SSA include a

statutory audit of its accounts every year, internal audit arrangements and audits by the CAG's office. Through these mechanisms, Central Government follows up with States in order to ensure proper implementation of SSA by them.

Statement

State-wise GOI release during 2004-05, 2005-06 *and* 2006-07 *under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*

Sl. No	Name of the State	GOI Releases (Rupees in lakhs)		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07*
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	28000	37999	43245.56
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3008	4442.51	4109.92
3.	Assam	20654	13850	36418.35
4.	Bihar	31970.56	32399.56	107744 39
5.	Chhattisgarh	20786.76	30184.39	50182.20
6.	Goa	0	728.12	724.12
7.	Gujarat	14072	15084.84	14806.97
8.	Haryana	12881.55	10196.55	25647.12
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6144	7614.66	6250.75
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	7747.18	18530.65	22083.37
11.	Jharkhand	16568.5	28568.5	51515
12.	Karnataka	26280.7	28303.78	54206.98
13.	Kerala	8939	5939	4382
14.	Madhya Pradesh	44608.919	77173.12	110879.68
15.	Maharashtra	35489.79	50235.31	52158.56
16.	Manipur	1225	3208.44	9.24
17.	Meghalaya	2930 81	1921	4294
18.	Mizoram	3300.24	2559 15	3441.69
19.	Nagaland	2088.49	2323.01	2315.2

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Orissa	21607.27	32792.5	44010.95
21.	Punjab	3040	14683.89	12879.92
22.	Rajasthan	23549.397	60313.43	72809.82
23.	Sikkim	1000.25	1062.5	
24.	Tamil Nadu	26517	35329.53	36329.65
25.	Tripura	4703.96	7070.19	5330.01
26.	Uttar Pradesh	87761	182799	206654
27.	Uttaranchal	9144.705	10004	16934
28.	West Bengal	46024.36	34199.79	61736.80
29.	A & N Islands	272.58	163	419.62
30.	Chandigarh	447.95	350	300
31.	Dadra & N. Haveli	111.91	0	
32.	Daman & Diu	0	111.91	
33.	Delhi	0	1100	2930.24
34.	Lakshadweep	12.03	0	87.47
35.	Pondicherry	225.53	529.4	
	TOTAL :	511314.44	751770.73	1054837.58

As on 28.02.2007

Appointment of Vice-Chancellors in Universities

2138. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the role of University Grants Commission's Chairman in appointments of Vice-Chancellors of all over the country; and

(b) the number of appointments made during May, 2004 to February, 2007 in various universities having representatives of U.G.C. among the Search Committees appointed to prepare panels of names for the posts of Vice-Chancellors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The appointment of Vice-Chancellor is made in accordance with the provisions in the Acts, Statutes of respective universities. There is no role of Chairman, UGC in the appointment of Vice-Chancellor of Central University. A nominee of UGC is appointed on the Search Committee for Vice-Chancellor of States Universities, if there exist a provision in their respective Act. For Institutions Deemed to be Universities, it is mandatory to have UGC's nominee on the Search Committee for selecting Vice-Chancellors.

(b) As per information furnished by the UGC, Chairman of UGC nominated 103 representatives on the Search Committees appointed to prepare panels of names for the post of Vice-Chancellors of the Universities, during this period.

Faculty crunch in IIM-L

2139. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Institute of Management-Lucknow is facing problems with faculty crunch in the wake of implementation of the 27 per cent reservation for OBCs;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to remove faculty crunch;

(c) whether all the universities/IIMs/IITs in the country are maintaining the student teacher ratio, and

(d) if so, the details of present student teacher ratio, institution-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The sanctioned faculty strength of Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Lucknow is 60 and all are in position. The recruitment of additional faculty in the wake of implementing the 27 per cent reservation for OBCs, shall be made by the Institute as per prescribed procedure.

(c) and (d) In Central Universities, IITs and IIMs, the faculty student ratio is as under:

Universities: It is not feasible to maintain a teacher student ratio across all the courses/institutions. It depends upon the nature of the course/ institution. The teacher student ratio in various Central Universities varies from 1:9 to 1:26.

IITs/IIMs: The approved faculty student ratio in respect of IITs/IIMs is 1:9. However, the current faculty student ratio in these Institutions is as under:

IIMs	Faculty student ratio
IIM, Ahmedabad	1:8.4
IIM, Bangalore	1:13.4
IIM, Calcutta	1:8
IIM, Lucknow	1:9
IIM, Indore	1:9
IIM, Kozhikode	1:15

IITs	Faculty student ratio
IIT, Kharagpur	1:13
IIT, Guwahati	1:10
IIT, Kanpur	1:10
IIT, Delhi	1:12
IIT, Bombay	1:12
IIT, Roorkee	1:12
IIT, Madras	1:13

Computerization of secondary education

2140. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, under the new mission proposed to be established for secondary education computerization, Government would form an important component so as to cover all the high schools in the country during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard, particularly with regard to Andhra Pradesh where still there are such 8,000 high schools which require to be provided with computer learning facility indicating the status of A.P. Government's proposal in this regard and the amount proposed to be allocated to the State for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) A scheme called " Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools" is being implemented by this Ministry. Under this Scheme, financial assistance is provided to States/UTs on the basis of Computer Education Plans sent by them to impart computer literacy in Government and Government aided Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools of the country. An amount of Rs. 1000.00 lakh has been sanctioned to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for implementing the scheme in 200 schools during 2006-07.

Muslim students in the country

†2141. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Muslim students in the country who have received education upto secondary level during the last five years, State-wise;

(b) the total number of Muslim students who have received education upto graduate and post-graduate level during the last five years, State-wise; and

(c) the amount allocated to Muslim higher educational institutes and for higher education during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No, such information is maintained centrally.

(c) A Statement is attached.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Development assistance released in the Higher Education Sector through the UGC (as on March, 17, 2007)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year		Aligarh Muslim University	Jamia Hamdard	Higher Education Sector through UGC
2002-03	Plan	883.22	212.02	55954.87
	Non-Plan	17290.53	400.00	112626.22
2003-04	Plan	793.27	164.02	61408.49
	Non-Plan	14897.94	428.53	113389.18
2004-05	Plan	1396.15	168.93	75132.66
	Non-Plan	15960.15	440.46	119223.57
2005-06	Plan	1673.27	270.59	80874.38
	Non-Plan	18881.67	433.96	138981.86
2006-07	Plan	2100.00	89.46	102134.45
	Non-Plan	20125.00	400.00	136706.68
TOTAL :	Plan	6845.91	903.02	375504.85
	Non-Plan	87155.29	2102.95	620927.51

Figures for 2006-07 are provisional

Target of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

2142. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN
DR. K. MALAISAMY

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not reaching the target in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan; if allocation of funds is the problem why sufficient funds was not given when it is approved by Project Approval Board;

(b) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is not endowed with well versed competent people; and

(c) whether he needs to have a relook, revise the objective organization manpower and operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Funds are released by the Central Government under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as per the approved Annual Work Plan and Budget of States/UTs and their actual performance in respect of utilization of funds and release of matching State share. During 2005-06 Central Government provided funds to the tune of Rs. 751770.73 lakh and in 2006-07 an amount of Rs. 1054837.58 lakh has been released upto 28.02.2007 under the programme.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Appointment norms of lecturers

†2143. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that changes have been made in norms regarding appointment of lecturers in colleges and universities;

(b) if so, the reasons for making such changes in these norms;

(c) whether previous fixed norms are also applicable in the said matter; and

(d) if so, the norm which would be given priority regarding appointment on colleges and universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) On the recommendations of a Committee constituted by the Government to review the National Eligibility Test (NET) for its utility, effectiveness and continuation, the University Grants Commission has amended its Regulation on Minimum Qualification of Appointment and Career Advancement of Lecturers, Readers and Professors in universities and colleges. As per the amendment, those with an M.Phil qualification can teach under-graduate classes without qualifying the NET, while, those with Ph.D. qualification are not required to qualify the NET for teaching in Universities. The Regulations have come into force w.e.f. the 14th June, 2006.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Discontinuing Board Examination

†2144. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to discontinue board examination of tenth standard is under consideration of Central Board of Secondary Education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether approval of this proposal is likely to have a negative impact on the students; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

IITs in the country

2145. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IITs in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the committee constituted to set up new IITs in the country by upgrading promising academic institutions has since submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether Government have received any request from Himachal Pradesh for upgradation of some of their institutions into IITs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The number of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in the country, State-wise are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)	State/UT
1.	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	Maharashtra
2.	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	Delhi
3.	Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
4.	Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur	West Bengal
5.	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	Tamil Nadu
6.	Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati	Assam
7.	Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee	Uttarakhand

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Committee while finally short-listing the seven Institutions/ Universities for the purpose observed that all identified Institutions fall far below the level of the existing IITs in all criterions used for the short listing. The Committee was, therefore, of the view that in the light of the substantial gap between the selected Institutions and IITs, it would not be correct to position these Institutions straightway alongside the IITs. The Committee suggested that the selected Institutions should be described as Institutions possessing the best potential among the Engineering and Technology Colleges in the country for upgradation to the level of IITs. In order to start the upgradation process Rs. 61.00 crores have been allocated to these seven Institutions during 2006-2007.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Mapping of human resource development

2146. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have done mapping of human resource development in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of essential features of the mapping done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Demands of primary teachers

†2147. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of demands for which primary teachers across the country are stagging dharna against Government;

(b) Government's view with regard to entrusting school management committee with the responsibility of education of children among these demands;

(c) the details of action taken by Government under Fundamental Right to Education Act, 2006; and

(d) the measures Government would take to address the problems of primary teachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Some Teacher Associations/Federations have submitted representations on various issues relating, *inter alia*, to the provisions of the draft Model Right to Education Bill, 2006.

In pursuance of Article 21A of the Constitution which seeks to make education a fundamental right for children in the age group of 6-14 years, a draft Model Right to Education Bill, 2006 has been formulated.

The draft Model Right to Education Bill, 2006, contains, *inter alia*, provisions relating to the role and functions of the School Management Committee (SMC) namely that it shall :

(i) monitor and oversee the working of the school, and plan and facilitate its development;

(ii) manage the assets of the school;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iii) ensure that teachers of the school diligently perform the duties prescribed for them;

(iv) disburse salary to teachers from the grants received for the purpose from the appropriate Government/local authority, and to deduct payment of salary for the period of unauthorized absence, if any, in such manner as decided by the SMC;

(v) utilize other grants received from the appropriate government, local authority or any other source for the upkeep and development of the school, in accordance with the terms of such grant and the rules made in that behalf; and

(vi) such other functions as may be prescribed.

The objective of involving the School Management Committee is to facilitate community ownership and active involvement of parents and representatives of local authority in the functioning of the school in order to achieve the goal of universalization of elementary education.

The Model Right to Education Bill has not yet been finalized as the draft Bill has been circulated to the States/UTs with a view to seek their comments thereon.

Expenditure under SSA in Bihar

†2148 SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Bihar has spent 60 per cent of total available amount and only 33 per cent of allocated amount during the current year under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that situation in other States is different as compared to Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) An amount of Rs. 1077.44 crores has been released by Government of India to Bihar under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme during the current financial

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

year. Government of Bihar has spent 61.70% of available funds as on 31.12.2006. However, the expenditure is only 33.23% with respect to the total Annual Work Plan and Budget approved for Bihar for 2006-07.

(b) and (c) Several States have reached higher levels of expenditure than Bihar by end of December 2006. However, the Bihar SSA programme has shown improvement in fund utilization compared to the same period in the pervious year.

Drop-out in rural areas

2149. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the school drop-out rate in the rural areas especially with reference to SCs/STs and other backward classes in the country;

(b) how far it has been controlled after the launch of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(c) the drop-out rate position in Orissa; and

(d) the action plan of the Centre to help this backward region both financially and physically to control this rate in the rural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) All India and Orissa State drop-out rates of Total, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students in Classes I-V, I-VIII and I-X for the year 2004-05 are given as under:

(In percentage)

Categories	Classes I-V		Classes I-VIII		Classes I-X	
	All India	Orissa	All India	Orissa	All India	Orissa
Total	29.00	39.34	50.84	61.95	61.92	64.42
Scheduled Castes	34.21	44.58	57.26	66.00	71.25	71.20
Scheduled Tribes	42.32	58.62	65.87	80.06	78.97	83.24

Annual class-wise enrolment figures are not collected for rural areas and OBC students separately, and therefore, drop-out rates for these

categories cannot be calculated separately. Drop-out rates have been declining since the launch of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The primary stage drop-out rates declined from 39.0% in 2001-02 to 29.0% in 2004-05.

(d) A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under SSA for reducing drop-out rates. One set of interventions relates to strengthening of schools and improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, annual school grants, regular training of teachers, regular academic support to teachers etc. In addition, several interventions under SSA also aim at community support, flexible schooling for children who are drop-outs, older children or children in difficult circumstances, and special provisions to promote education of girls, children from disadvantaged sections of society or children with special needs.

Final report of Moily Panel

2150. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Moily Panel and submitted its final report by 15th September, 2006 suggesting roadmap for reservation of OBCs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what will be the likely number of eligible candidates for academic session 2007-08 in general, SC, ST and OBC categories and the number of seats available to them for admission in IIMS, IITs and Medical Colleges and percentage of seats in relation to eligible candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Oversight Committee has submitted its final report on the 30th September, 2006. A Budgetary provision of Rs. 2698.00 crores has been for the financial year 2007-08 to meet the first year requirement of funds for expanding capacity of Central Educational Institutions coming under purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

(c) While no estimate can be made of the likely number of candidates enrolling in the different categories in the year 2007-08, according to the provisions of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission)

Act, 2006 all institutions have to expand capacity to implement reservation for the SC(15%), the ST (7.5%) and the OBCs (27%) without reducing the number of seats available to the unreserved category over a maximum period of three years.

Review of SSA on CAG report

2151. SHRI DARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the backdrop of CAG report on ineffectiveness of Sarva Shiksa Abhiyan and Mid-day Meal Scheme by the Centre and State Governments, Hon'ble PM reviewed its flagship education sector programme on 22nd September, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to implement the scheme effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Programmes of Government of India were reviewed by the Prime Minister on 22.09.2006 as they are important flagship programmes of the country.

(b) and (c) Some of the key suggestions made in the meeting were to disseminate good practices across States in the Country; develop mechanisms for ranking of States/ UTs on progress achieved; and discuss in the National Development Council to develop consensus on these flagship programmes of the Government.

Recognition of B.Ed/M. Ed courses

2152. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for getting the B.Ed/M.Ed courses recognized in the States;

(b) whether any No Objection Certificate is required for the concerned State for getting the recognition of B.Ed/MEd. Colleges;

(c) whether it is a fact that the NCERT is giving recognition to B.Ed college without issuance of No Objection Certificate by the State Government;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the NCERT is not recognizing the M.Ed courses for which the State Government has given the No Objection Certificate; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHAF FATMI): (a) The procedure for grant of recognition to institutions who wish to start teacher education course including B.Ed./M.Ed is laid down under the relevant provisions of NCTE Act, 1993, NCTE Rules, 1997 and NCTE Regulations issued by the NCTE from time to time. All these are notified in the Official Gazette. The latest Regulation in this regard was notified *vide* Notification No. 8 of 27.12.2005 published in Part-III Section 4 of the Official Gazette on 13.1.2006. According to this regulation an institution is required to submit its application in the prescribed format to the concerned Regional Committee of the NCTE which after being satisfied that the institution has all the necessary infrastructural/instructional facilities and fulfils all the conditions prescribed in the relevant provisions of the NCTE Act, processes it for granting recognition.

(b) and (c) The recognition for B.Ed and M.Ed. courses is granted by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and not National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

The Norms and Standards have been laid down by NCTE for grant of recognition to various Teacher Training Institutes from time to time. As per the norms formulated in 2002 *vide* Notification No. 9-18/2002/NCTE dated 13.11.2002, an application for recognition for a course or training in teacher education and/or increase in intake was to be accompanied by a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the State or UT in which the institution was located. Application without NOC/endorsement of the State/UT Govt. was not to be processed by the concerned Regional Committees of NCTE.

This requirement was relaxed for a period of three years from 5.1.2004 to 4.1.2007 in respect of B.Ed institutions already recognized by NCTE for starting Elementary Teacher Education Programme or increasing intake

in the course and any other institution for starting a course or training in Pre-school Teacher Education/Nursery Teachers Training *vide* Notification No. F 53-3/2003-NCTE(N&S) dated 1.1.2004.

These regulations have now been revised vide Notification No. 49-42/2005-NCTE(N&S) dated 27.12.2005 Gazetted on 13.1.2006 which stipulate that a written communication alongwith a copy of the application form submitted by the institution shall be sent to the State Government/UT Administration concerned. On receipt of communication, the State Govt./UT Administration shall within 60 days furnish its recommendations on the applications to the office of the Regional Committee. If no reply is received from the State Govt./UT Administration within the stipulated 60 days, it shall be presumed that State Govt./UT Administration concerned has no recommendation to make.

(d) NCTE Act provides for granting of permissions to run all teacher education courses including M.Ed. even without NOC of the State Government provided it fulfils all the norms and standards established under its Regulations

No specific instances of a Regional Committee not recognizing M.Ed. course for which NOC from the State Government has been submitted and which fulfils all other requirements of the relevant provisions of the NCTE Act, Rules and Regulations has come to notice.

(e) Question does not arise in view of 'd' above.

Central Universities in the North-East

2153. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have opened Central Universities in every State of the North-East, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to open one Central University in hill States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Central Universities have been established under Acts of Parliament in every State, however, the Acts in respect of Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim are yet to come in to force.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The present policy of the Government is to lay emphasis on consolidation and expansion of facilities in the existing universities rather than setting up of more universities.

Expenditure on higher education

2154. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that we are spending only 0.37 per cent of our GDP on higher education as compared to 0.05 per cent by China, 1.41 per cent by US and 1.07 per cent by UK;

(b) if so, how we propose to open new universities or expand the existing universities with a view to accommodate a large number of students, especially when quota for OBC has been fixed and assurance to other classes of students has been given that the number of seats for them would not be curtailed; and

(c) the percentage of GDP we propose to spend on higher education in the year 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) It is a fact that public expenditure on higher education in the India is lower than several other countries.

(b) Expansion of Capacity in higher education is a joint ongoing effort of the State Governments and the Central Government. The budgetary provision for higher education including technical education has been substantially increased since 2004-05 by the Central Government resulting in the creation of new Central Universities and other higher education institutions.

(c) Public expenditure by the Central Government on higher education during 2007-08 will depend on approval of the budgetary proposal by Parliament.

Guidelines for opening higher educational institutions

2155. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines fixed for opening higher educational institutions in the country;

(b) if educational and social backwardness of a place is one at the parameters, whether Government would consider opening one such institution of higher education at Rohru, District Shimla, Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The universities are established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, a provincial Act or a State Act. Higher Educational requirements of all regions, in order to prevent regional imbalances, is a joint ongoing responsibility of States as well as the Central Government.

(b) and (c) Central Universities have been established/Central Legislation enacted for Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Sikkim. There is no proposal, at present under consideration to open a Central University in Himachal Pradesh.

Reservation for OBC students

2156. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether reservation for OBC students in respect of admission to higher courses run by Central Universities has already come into force;

(b) if so, since when and upto which percentage;

(c) whether the OBC students getting admitted in regional college, affiliated to university run by any State, will get the benefit of reservation coming out in part (b) above; and

(d) the role of the Centre in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006 has come into force for admissions in the academic sessions commencing on or from the calendar year, 2007. The Act provides for reservation of 15% seats for the Scheduled Castes, 7.5% seats for the Scheduled Tribes and 27% seats for the OBCs. Reservation can be extended only to institutions covered by Section 2(d) of the Act. The Central Government has no role in respect of Institutions coming under the purview of States. However, article 15(5) of the Constitution empowers State Legislations also to make appropriate Laws for ensuring reservation in such institutions.

Setting up of National Universities

2157. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up 50 National Universities as recommended by the National Knowledge Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The National Knowledge Commission has *inter-alia* recommended establishment of 50 National Universities. The recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission are in the public domain for wider debate among all stake holder.

Regulatory authority for standards and degrees

2158. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no independent regulatory authority to monitor standards and degrees in universities;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to set up one such body;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The UGC is the apex body for maintaining and coordinating the standards of Higher Education. However, there are regulatory Councils like All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Medical Council of India (MCI), Dental Council of India (DCI), Indian Nursing Council (INC), National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE), which monitor and regulate and standards of education in specific streams, within their respective jurisdiction.

Tribals in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas

2159. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tribals studying in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalas of Jharkhand and the figures for the last three years;

(b) the number of tribal teachers working in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas and the figures for the last three years; and

(c) the number of tribals teaching in Central Government run educational institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The number of tribals studying in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNVs) of Jharkhand State during the last three years is as under:—

Sl. No.	Academic Year	No. of tribal students enrolled in KVs.	No. of tribal students enrolled in JNVs.
1.	2004-2005	1617	1690
2.	2005-2006	1681	1785
3.	2006-2007 (as on 15.03.2007)	1775	1808

(b) Number of tribal teachers working in KVs and JNVs during the last three years is as under:—

Sl. No.	Academic Year	No. of tribal Teachers working with KVs.	No. of tribal Teachers working with JNVs.
1.	2004-2005	940	448
2.	2005-2006	1004	457
3.	2006-2007 (as on 15.03.2007)	1025	498

(c) The Ministry of Human Resource Development does not centrally collect and maintain the data in respect of educational institutions run by the different Ministries/Departments of the Central Government.

Linking of educational and research institutions in the country

2160. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to link all educational and research institutions of higher learning in the country through a high speed Broadband Network to optimize the potential of institutions engaged in generation and dissemination of knowledge;

(b) whether his Ministry and National Knowledge Commission (NKC) have recommended linking of all educational and research institutions, Central Universities, IITs and IIMs through a Broadband Network free of cost; and

(c) if so, how much this plan is likely to cost Government and expenditure required to be made in the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has already provided connectivity to as many as 149 Universities through the Information and Library Network Centre (INFLIBNET), an autonomous Inter University Centre of the UGC. Universities/educational institutions selected under the UGC's INFONET Project have been provided High Speed Network Connectivity with 90%

infrastructure cost and 100% recurring cost, out of grants provided to the Commission. During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 192.64 crores will be required by the INFLIBNET to meet the expenditure for covering additional universities and colleges. Similarly, the Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology (INDEST) Consortium provides networked access to electronic resources to 38 Centrally funded institutions including the IITs.

Family Courts

2161. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of family courts established in India, State-wise and district-wise;

(b) whether any evaluation has been done on the utility of family courts for the last four years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government plan to expand family courts in the country; and

(e) if so, the details of the location where they will be established and when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (e) A Statement indicating Family Courts established in the country State-wise alongwith locations is attached. The working of the Family Courts is reviewed periodically in various fora like Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices and Law Ministers and Law Secretaries of the States.

Based on the recommendation made in the 6th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances and Ministry of Law & Justice (Department of Justice), all State Governments/UTs have been requested to establish at least one Family court in each district to resolve family disputes and related matters expeditiously.

Statement

State-wise break-up of number of family courts in existence in various parts of the country

S. No.	Name of the State	Total number of Family Courts	Name of the place where Family Court is set up
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Tirupathi, Warangal, Kurnool, Secunderabad, Jubilee Hills.
2.	Assam	5	Guwahati, location of other four Family Courts is not available.
3.	Bihar	31	Patna, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur, Buxar, Bhabhua, Aurangabad, Khagaria, Jehanabad, Hajipur, Jamui, Nawadah, Madhepura, Madhubani, Bihar Sharif, Sitamarhi, Gopalganj, Gaya, Chapra, Darbhanga, Saharsa, Purnia, Munger, Arrah, Motihari, Bettiah, Siwan, Begusarai, Samastipur, Katihar and Sasaram.
4.	Chhattisgarh	11	Raipur (3), Durg (4), Bilaspur, Korba, Raigarh and Sarguja (Ambikapur)
5.	Delhi	15	Not available
6.	Gujarat	7	Ahmedabad (4), location of other three Family Courts is not available.
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	Jammu
8.	Jharkhand	6	Dhanbad, Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Jamshedpur, Dumka and Bokaro.
9.	Karnataka	12	Bangalore (4), Belgaum, Bellary, Bijapur, Gulbarga, Mangalore, Mysore, Raichur & Devanagere.
10.	Kerala	16	Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Kottayam, Manjeri, Thiruvalla, Kannur, Alappuzha, Thoduguzha, Kalpetta, Palakkad, Kasaraged and Nedumangad (2)

1	2	3	4
11.	Madhya Pradesh	7	Indore, Bhopal, Ujjain, Gwalior, Reva, Jabalpur & Sagar.
12.	Maharashtra	18	Pune (5), Mumbai (7), Aurangabad (2), Nagpur (2) and Thane (2)
13.	Manipur	2	Takyel, location of one Family Court is not available.
14.	Nagaland	2	Kohima and Dimapur
15.	Orissa	2	Cuttack & Rourkela
16.	Pondicherry	1	Pondicherry
17.	Punjab	2	Amritsar & Ludhiana
18.	Rajasthan	6	Jaipur (2), Jodhpur, Udaipur, Kotah & Ajmer
19.	Sikkim	1	Gangtok
20.	Tamil Nadu	6	Chennai (3), Madurai, Coimbatore & Salem
21.	Tripura	3	Agartala, Udaipur & Kailashahar
22.	Uttar Pradesh	14	Kanpur (2), Lucknow (2), Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Bareilly, Allahabad, Meerut, Agra, Varanasi, Moradabad, Faizabad & Azamgarh
23.	Uttaranchal	7	Nainital, Pauri, Dehradun, Haridwar, U.S. Nagar, Rishikesh and Roorkee
24.	West Bengal	3	Calcutta (2) & location of one Family Court is not available
	TOTAL:	186	

Pre-litigation mediation

2162. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which Government have encouraged the concept of pre-litigation mediation in various States;

(b) whether Government will encourage pre-litigation mediation to reduce the clogging of our courts;

(c) the steps that will be taken to try to bring about pre-litigation mediation at panchayat and local levels;

(d) whether a mass awareness programme will be launched in the country to encourage people to try to settle their disputes; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) As per the information made available by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), the said Authority are in process of establishing Counselling and Conciliation Centres in all the Districts of the Country to bring settlements through mediation and conciliation in pre-litigation as well as post litigation disputes. In most of the States, such centres have been established.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) NALSA proposes to create a small informal mechanism at the Panchayat and Ward Levels to create awareness about the Mediation and Conciliation, and about the benefits of settlement of disputes at pre-litigative stage itself.

(d) and (e) Legal awareness camps are organized by NALSA to encourage the settlement of disputes.

Alimony on break-up of live-in relationship

2163. SHRI VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to seek alimony or financial compensation for women when a live-in relationship breaks up;

(b) if so, the guidelines that will construe a live-in relationship and whether it will be the duration of time; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that this law will be applicable to those women who were married to men, who were already married, and therefore have no legal status as a wife?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pending cases and upgradation of judicial system

2164. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States propose to set up night courts to clear pending cases in the lower courts in the country.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the total number of court cases pending both in the lower courts and High Courts; and

(d) what is the action plan of the Centre to help the backward States *i.e.* Orissa, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, etc. to upgrade their judicial system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) The Central Government does not maintain any information in this regard. Under article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court. Hence, it is for the concerned High Court to set up night courts to clear pending cases at the lower courts in consultation with the concerned State Government.

(c) and (d) As per available information as on 31.12.2006 there are 39,91,251 cases pending in High Courts and 2,63, 92,004 cases pending in the lower courts. A Scheme for Computerization of District and Subordinate Courts, prepared in accordance with the National Policy and Action Plan has been approved by the Government on 8th February, 2007. The salient features of the Action Plan cover application and implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Judicial System in a phased manner involving computerization of all district and subordinate courts in the country and upgradation of facilities of the superior courts and electronic networking of the lowest court with the highest court. Government has already computerized the city courts in the four Metropolitan cities and State capitals or in cities where the principal seat of the High Court is located.

Establishment of independent Commission against corruption

2165. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seriously considering to establish an independent Commission against corruption;

(b) whether it is a fact that the existing law enforcement machinery including police has become hugely corrupt;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the details of numerous reports from Commission which have recognised the problem of corruption in said institution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Inquiry into misbehaviour of Judges

2166. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Judges of the Gujarat High Court had verbally fought with each other in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether an inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report and the findings thereof;

(d) the action taken/being taken against such misbehaviour by the Judges of the High Court; and

(e) what action Government propose to avoid such instances in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) The Supreme Court of India has been consulted in the matter and they have informed as below:

(i) The factual position, as reported to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, is that an incident, as also reported by the press, involving

misbehaviour on the part of two Judges of the Gujarat High Court took place on 11th January, 2007. One Judge alleged misbehaviour and the other denied the version given by the former.

(ii) No formal enquiry had been conducted in this regard and hence there is no question of any report or findings.

(iii) No formal enquiry having been conducted, there is no question of any action taken/being taken against the alleged misbehaviour.

(e) Government has introduced Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006 in the Lok Sabha on December 19, 2006 which shall devise a suitable legislative framework for empowering a judicial forum to deal with complaints against judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

Amendment of National Tax Tribunal Act, 2005

2167. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to amend the National Tax Tribunal Act, 2005 in the wake of the SC Judgement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Keeping in view of the observations made by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 9th January, 2007 in the Transfer Case (Civil) No. 116 of 2006—Sandeep Goyal *Vs.* Union of India and Others, the National Tax Tribunal (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007 was promulgated on 29th January, 2007. The National Tax Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 2007 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 01.03.2007 for replacing the National Tax Tribunal (Amendment), Ordinance, 2007.

(c) Does not arise.

NCW's request on adultery

2168. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Commission for Women has approached Government to make adultery a civil wrong and not a criminal offence, as at present;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government regarding the proposal that women be not punished for adultery as she is 'victim' and not the 'offender'; and

(c) whether, as it may require amendment to existing sections of the Criminal Law, Government may try to get consensus of political outfits State Governments, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. In the comments furnished by the National Commission for Women to the Ministry of Women and Child Development in respect of a reference made to the Commission by the Ministry, following a petition submitted to the Hon'ble President, the Commission has made a recommendation that the issue of adultery should be viewed as a breach of trust and treated as a civil wrong rather than a criminal offence but this should be done only after working out a national consensus in the matter.

(b) As per the existing provision in section 497 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the wife (who is involved in adultery) shall not be punishable as an abettor.

(c) The recommendations of the Commission on the subject are under examination of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Reforms in mineral exploration

2169. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to commit itself to a time bound mineral exploration process by setting time-lines for grant of prospecting and mining licences and set up an independent mining tribunal to settle disputes;

(b) if so, whether these aspects would be brought into the National Mineral Policy, 2007;

(c) if so, the details of the policy measures approved;

(d) whether the policy has taken any stand regarding the idea of imposing export duty on export of iron; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (e) National Mineral Policy, 2007 which includes policy proposals on the need for time-bound grant of mineral concessions, setting up of independent tribunal, etc. is under consideration of the Government.

Survey of mineral resources in Rajasthan

2170. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Geological Survey of India has carried out survey of mineral resources in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether it has identified those mineral resources which have depleted fast and untapped areas deserving exploration;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India has identified fast depleting minerals and untapped areas deserving exploration in Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) Gold, copper-lead-zinc and phosphorite have been identified as minerals which have limited reserves and are fast depleting. In Rajasthan, untapped areas for gold are located in Udaipur, Banswara, Ajmer and Bhilwara districts; for copper in Dausa, Sikar, Jhunjhunu and Rajsamand districts; for lead-zinc in Udaipur district and phosphorite in

Banswara district. Regional exploration is being carried out in these areas by GSI.

National Institute of Rock Mechanics

2171. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Institute of Rock Mechanics, Kolar has undertaken 36 new externally funded projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the cost of each project and present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. National Institute of Rock Mechanics (NIRM) has undertaken 36 externally funded projects in the year 2005-06.

(b) and (c) Details of the projects are given as under:

Sl. No.	Project No.	Project Sponsored by	Project Cost Rs. in lakhs	Current Status (Feb. 2007)
1	2	3	4	5
1	GC0501C	Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd.	2.90	Completed
2	GC0502C	-do-	6..00	Completed
3	GC0503C	-do-	6..00	In progress
4	GC0504C	-do-	6..00	In progress
5	GC0505C	-do-	4.90	In progress
6	GC0506C	-do-	5.35	Completed
7	GC0507C	-do-	5.35	Completed
8	GC0510C	-do-	13.65	In progress
9	GC0511C	-do-	3.50	Completed
10	RB0502C	-do-	3.00	Completed
11	NM0501C	Tala Hydroelectric Project Authority Bhutan	38.60	Completed
12	NM0502C	-do-	6.40	Completed
13	NM0502C	-do-	6.06	Completed
14	RB0506C	-do-	6.50	Completed
15	GE0501C	National Hydro Power Corporation Ltd.	11.75	Completed
16	GE0509C	-do-	11.00	In progress

1	2	3	4	5
17	GE0510C	-do-	9.00	In progress
18	RF0501C	Konkan Railway Corp Ltd.	2.34	Completed
19	GE0503C	-do-	7.50	Completed
20	GE0504C	-do-	12.00	Completed
21	EG0503C	RITES	14.53	Completed
22	EG0505C	-do-	8.74	Completed
23	EG0506C	-do-	6.44	Completed
24	EG0501C	Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd Himachal Pradesh	3.55	Completed
25	RB0501C	-do-	5.00	Completed
26	GE0505C	WAPCOS	15.90	In progress
27	GE0506C	-do-	10.00	In progress
28	GE0507C	Uttaranchal Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.	20.00	Completed
29	GE0508C	-do-	18.50	Completed
30	GC0508C	Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board	5.30	In progress
31	GE0502C	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	8.00	In progress
32	EG0502C	Geostock, France	13.50	Completed
33	EG0504C	MRPL, Mangalore	4.35	Completed
34	RB0504C	AFCONS	6.00	Completed
35	RB0505C	SRS Energy Ltd.	3.50	Completed
36	RB0503C	National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.	4.57	Completed

Criteria for Linguistic Minorites

†2172. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set any criteria for linguistic minorities, if so, State-wise details thereof;

(b) the details of the facilities being provided to the linguistic minorities; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Nepali speaking population is also included in the list of linguistic minorities?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) Linguistic Minorities have not been defined in the Constitution or by any statute. They get defined when their mother tongue differs from the regional language of the area. They are identified by the State Government/ Union Territory on the basis of Census data. The details of linguistic Minorities, State-wise, are given in Chapter III of the 40th report of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities, tabled in the House on 16.8.2004. This is also available on the website **www.nclm.nic.in.**

The Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities, appointed under Article 350B of the Constitution, has been entrusted with the duty to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for Linguistic Minorities in the Constitution.

(c) Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities has reported that, on the basis of inputs received from various State Governments and Census records, Nepali is spoken in the States of Assam, West Bengal (major language in Darjeeling District), Meghalaya, Sikkim (regional language) and Mizoram.

Report of National Linguistic and Religious Minorities Commission

†2173. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Linguistic and Religious Minorities Commission has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if not, what is the tenure of this Commission;

(c) whether Government are considering to extend the tenure of this Commission; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Upto 31st March, 2007.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Safeguarding the Interest of Minorities

2174. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite economic boom Muslim minorities have to bare the brunt of the so called 'competitive' forces unleashed by liberalization; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for safeguarding the interests of the minorities?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) This is mentioned in Chapter Two of the High Level Committee report on the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community of India which was tabled in the Rajya Sabha on 30th November, 2006.

(b) The response of government to the recommendations of the Committee is being finalized.

National Commission for Welfare of Socially and Economically Weaker Sections

†2175. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the National Commission for the welfare of socially and economically weaker sections among religious and linguistic minorities has been constituted and if so, the members thereof;

(b) the details of the main responsibilities (work) entrusted to this Commission; and

(c) the details of the action being taken to provide reservation in Government jobs to religious and linguistic minorities on the basis of their economic backwardness?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) The Government have constituted the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities *vide* Resolution dated 29th October, 2004 and its tenure has been extended upto 31st March, 2007. The members of the Commission are as under:—

(1)	Justice (Retd) Ranganath Misra	Chairperson
(2)	Prof. (Dr.) Tahir Mahmood	Member

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(3)	Dr. Anil Wilson	Member
(4)	Dr. Mohinder Singh	Member
(5)	Smt. Asha Das	Member-Secretary

The Terms of Reference of the Commission are as follows:

(i) to suggest criteria for identification of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities;

(ii) to recommend meausres for welfare of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities, including reservation in education and government employment;

(iii) to suggest the necessary constitutional, legal and administrative modalities, as required for the implementation of their recommendations, and to present a Report of their deliberations and recommendations;

(iv) to give its recommendations on the issues raised in W.P. 180/04 and 94/05 filed in the Supreme Court and in certain High Courts relating to para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, in the context of ceiling of 50% reservation as also the modalities of inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes.

Enrolment of Muslims in Schools in Rural and Urban Areas

2176. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the enrolment of Muslims in schools, both in rural and urban areas, is less then SCs/STs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether his Ministry is planning to increase Muslim enrolment in schools, at least to the level of SCs/STs by 2008?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. According to the Sachar Committee Report, "In 1999-2000, Muslims had the lowest enrolment rate among all SRCs (socio-religious communities) except SCs/STs."

(c) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is being implemented with the objective, among other things, for universalisation of elementary education.

Subsidy on Non-Conventional Energy Systems

2177. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government provides subsidy up to 90 per cent of the benchmark installation costs of various non-conventional energy systems/devices;

(b) if so, the details of the subsidy provided to various agencies in different States/UTs during the last two years; and

(c) the quantity of uninterrupted energy produced by these units each month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Subsidy is being provided at various levels under some of the programmes/schemes of this Ministry. In the case of one programme, namely, the Remote Village Electrification Programme which aims at provision mainly of SPV home-lighting systems to households in villages/hamlets that will not receive grid-connectivity under RGGVY, subsidy @ 90 per cent of the normative/ benchmark cost of systems/devices provided therein is given.

(b) State-wise details of subsidy/central financial assistance released under different programmes/schemes during the last two years, *i.e.*, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) The estimated electricity generation from renewable power plants during 2005-06 was 14 billion KWh and is likely to be 17 billion KWh during 2006-07.

Statement

State-wise details of subsidy/Central Financial Assistance released under different programmes/schemes during the last two years (2004-05 and 2005-06)

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.59	12.193
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11.906	5.426
3.	Assam	0.442	2.023
4.	Bihar	0.061	0.411

Sl.No.	State/UT	2004-05	2005-06
5.	Chhattisgarh	1.39	5.504
6.	Goa	0.08	0.210
7.	Gujarat	2.215	3.497
8.	Haryana	1.576	1.479
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12.818	2.565
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.741	10.132
11.	Jharkhand	0.047	12.649
12.	Karnataka	5.384	4.046
13.	Kerala	1.332	1.371
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4.991	5.784
15.	Maharashtra	6.609	10.208
16.	Manipur	1.06	3.993
17.	Meghalaya	5.302	3.168
18.	Mizoram	3.459	14.345
19.	Nagaland	1.629	1.568
20.	Orissa	2.162	3.314
21.	Punjab	1.451	1.654
22.	Rajasthan	3.017	5.233
23.	Sikkim	0.88	3.066
24.	Tamil Nadu	6.105	3.370
25.	Tripura	10.749	0.241
26.	Uttar Pradesh	10.1	4.265
27.	Uttaranchal	1.515	10.578
28.	West Bengal	5.609	17.010
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0.000
30	Chandigarh	0	0.447
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0.000
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0.000
33.	Delhi	0.65	0.018
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0.000
35.	Pondicherry	0.081	0.632
36.	Others	36.189	35.303
	TOTAL:	152.14	185.701

Manufacturing of Non-conventional Energy Devices

2178. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received investment proposals of Rs. 10,000 crores from the US and Germany to manufacture devices and systems for harnessing non-conventional energy resources under the proposed SEZs Policy;

(b) whether Government have also received proposal from five States for setting up SEZs to manufacture equipment and systems for non-conventional energy;

(c) whether his Ministry has finalized the locations for setting up SEZs for the Rs. 10,000 crore investment proposal; and

(d) if so, by when the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise. However, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, a non-banking financial company under the administrative control of this Ministry, is envisaging formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle for setting up, maintaining and running of a Special economic Zone for renewable energy products.

Investment in Wind Power Projects

2179. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be please to state:

(a) whether the International Finance Corporation propose to invest in wind power projects in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the position of this sector in Orissa; and

(d) the action plan of Government to develop this sector in Orissa to light up more villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Ministry has not received any such proposal from International Finance Corporation to invest in wind power projects in India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Commercial wind power projects are private sector driven and the level of deployment depends upon the investors confidence in the State. No such project has come up in the States of Orissa so far.

(d) The Union Government is encouraging setting up of wind power projects in all potential States including Orissa by providing fiscal incentives such as concessional import duty on certain components of wind electric generator, excise duty exemption, ten years' tax holiday on income generated from wind power projects, benefit of accelerated depreciation, besides loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and other financial institutions. The nodal agency in the State of Orissa *i.e.* Orissa Renewable Energy Development Agency has informed that steps have been taken to set up wind demonstration projects of 4 MW capacity. The wind power projects are grid connected and the electricity generated by these projects are fed to the state electricity grid, which would also be available for supplying to villages.

Mini Hydel Projects in West Bengal

2180. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the Government of West Bengal for Mini Hydel Project for the years 2006 and 2007.

(b) the number of proposals approved for hilly areas of Darjeeling out of these; and

(c) whether Government are considering to relax norms for approval of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) No proposal has been received from the Government of West Bengal for Mini Hydel Project during the years 2006 and 2007 (up to 15.03.2007).

(b) and (c) do not arise.

Solution of Global Warming

2181. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bio-diesel is one of the immediate and viable solutions to tackle global warming and to meet requirement of fuel besides being the only fuel that reduce carbon dioxide life cycle by an amazing 78 per cent;

(b) if so, the measures taken to go for large scale and commercial production of bio-fuel; and

(c) whether the measures taken are adequate and effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The Report of the Committee on Development of Bio-fuel (2003) set up by the Planning Commission has brought out properties of bio-diesel as an alternative fuel, which can be used as a blend or substitute of conventional diesel. The Central Pollution Control Board has reported (2002) that the life-cycle production and use of bio-diesel produces approximately 80% less carbon dioxide an almost 100% less sulphur dioxide compared to conventional diesel.

(b) and (c) The Government has set up a National Mission on Bio-diesel under the Ministry of Rural Development, which includes the demonstration phase for plantation of Jatropha and pongamia on an estimated 5 lakh hectare of waste lands. The implementation of the programme for large scale and commercial production of bio-diesel would depend on the successful implementation of the demonstration phase.

Policy for Power Generation from Non-Fossil Fuel sources

2182. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the comprehensive renewable energy policy along with the time-bound action plan to achieve energy self-sufficiency by targeting 25 per cent power generation from non-fossil fuel sources;

(b) whether it will need to review the existing policies towards renewable energy in general and wind power, solar power and bio-fuel in particular; and

(c) if so, the status of efforts on this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The draft new and Renewable Energy Policy has been prepared and is available on the website of this Ministry. This apart, the Expert Committee on Integrated Energy Policy in its Report (2006) has estimated the share of grid-interactive renewable power in the national electricity-mix would rise to 5 per cent and remain at around that level through 2032 (end of the 15th Plan).

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, policies are renewed periodically in keeping with national priorities. In addition, the draft National Bio-fuel Policy has been prepared.

Contribution of New Renewable Sources

†2183. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of contribution of renewable energy sources in total energy production in the country;

(b) the efforts being made by Government for manufacturing and supply of non-conventional energy equipments and for promotion of infrastructural facilities;

(c) whether Government are contemplating on allowing cent-per cent foreign direct investment in these areas; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The Expert Committee on Intergranted Energy Policy in its Report (2006) has estimated the share of renewable energy, comprising mainly traditional biomass, in the national primary energy consumption at over 30 per cent.

(b) As the manufacturing of renewable energy systems is mainly private investment driven, Government's role is essentially limited to creating conditions for its growth. In this respect, fiscal incentives are being provided that include concessional customs duty on import of specified raw materials and components and exemption of excise duty on finished products.

(c) and (d) 100 per cent foreign direct investment in NRE sector is already permitted under the automatic approval route.

Schemes for Development of Renewable Energy

2184. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of NEW RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether IREDA is the nodal agency to release loans, subsidies and grants for eligible people under schemes of Government for development of renewable energy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that IREDA release "Capital Subsidy" of Rs. 1100/- per sq. metre of collector area to certain commercial establishments;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) how are the financial aspects of all such related schemes properly administered without "leakages" delays and other hurdles; and

(e) the steps proposed to have a transparent system for release of subsidies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), which is a Non-Banking Financial Company under the administrative control of this Ministry, extends term loans to renewable energy projects.

(b) and (c) Under the Solar Thermal Programme, interest subsidy to Banks and Financial Institutions is released through IREDA and capital subsidy through the state nodal agencies on re-imbursement basis.

(d) and (e) Release of subsidy and its utilisation are monitored as per laid down procedures that include obtaining audited statements of expenditure, utilisation certificates, etc.

Power Generation Capacity of Sugar Mills

†2185. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apart from sugar production, power generation capacity of sugar mills in the country has been assessed 7000 megawatt;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cost of construction of the above power generation projects has been assessed at 2.50 crores to Rs. 3 crores;

(d) if not, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the percentage of the above said power generation capacity which has been used for power generation in the country during the year 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. A potential of 5000 MW of surplus power generation through optimum bagasse based co-generation has been estimated in sugar mills of the country. The State-wise breakup of the potential is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The capital cost of installation of bagasse based co-generation projects is in the range of Rs. 3.0 crore to Rs. 3.6 crore/MW depending upon technical, financial and operating parameters.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

upon technical, financial and operating parameters.

(e) Around 3.5% of the estimated potential of 500 MW from bagasse co-generation has been harnessed by setting up projects of 163 MW of surplus power in different sugar mills of the country during the year 2005-06.

Statement

State-wise details of estimated surplus power generation potential through bagasse cogeneration projects in sugar mills.

State	Potential (MW)
Maharashtra	1250
Uttar Pradesh	1250
Tamil Nadu	450
Karnataka	450
Andhra Pradesh	300
Bihar	300
Gujarat	350
Punajb	300
Haryana & Other States	350
TOTAL:	5000

Inter State Power Exchange System

2186. SHRIMATI SUPPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Electricity Regulatory Commission is planning to bring a power exchange system which would facilitate inter-State distribution of electricity;

(b) whether the inter-State power exchange stood at a mere 10,000 MW which is to be increased to 36,000 MW by 2012;

(c) whether the total installed power capacity of the country had been 1,00,000 MW until 2000 and now it has been targeted to increase to 2,00,000 MW by 2012, and

(d) whether foreign investment in power sector to meet the growing needs of electricity, eight ultra modern projects of 4,000 MW capacity has also been started in the country;

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) At present, there exists an inter-regional transmission capacity of 11450 MW. This is planned to be enhanced to 37000 MW by the end of the 11th Plan.

(c) The National Electricity Policy envisages "Power for all by 2012 and per capita availability of power to be increased to over 1000 units by 2011-12. To achieve this, total capacity addition of about 1,00,000 MW is required during 10th and 11th Plan period. With this capacity addition, installed capacity by 2012 is envisaged to become over 2,00,000 MW.

(d) Ultra Mega Power Projects initiative has been launched for development of large size power Projects through tariff based competition route. Under the initiative so far, nine sites have been identified. Tying up of funds from various sources is the responsibility of successful developers.

Simhadri Thermal Power Project

2187. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the status and complete details of Simhadri-II Thermal Power Project, indicating the name of its promoter, capacity, likely date of commissioning, the funds released for it and utilization thereof;

(b) whether the work on this project is progressing as per schedule; and

(c) if the work on this project is behind the schedule, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) NTPC Ltd. proposes to expand the capacity of its existing Simhadri Thermal Power Project (Simhadri TPP, 2x500 MW), by adding 1000 MW capacity in State-II. Feasibility report for expansion project has been finalized with an estimated cost of Rs. 4844.4 crores (At 3rd Qtr. 2006 price level). Various input tie-ups and clearances including environment clearance from

Ministry of Environment & Forests are being pursued. After availability of necessary clearances, proposal will be processed for approval by NTPC Board and major expenditure on the project will be taken up. In the meanwhile a provision of Rs. 251.17 crores has been kept for the project in Budget Estimate (BE) 2007-08. Subject to timely clearances/approvals, both 500 MW units of the project are envisaged for commissioning in 11th Plan period.

Teesta Hydro Power Project

†2188. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the production capacity of Teesta hydro power project;

(b) the names of States which are expected to be benefited from the above said project; and

(c) by when this project is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Three hydroelectric projects are under implementation by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) on Teesta river. The details of these projects are as under:

Name of the Project/ Location (State)	Capacity (MW)	Beneficiary State(s)	Expected Commissioning schedule
Teesta Stage-V, Sikkim	510 MW	West Bengal, Sikkim, Bihar and Jharkhand along with Damodar Valley Corporation.	January, 2008
Teesta Low Dam Stage-III, West Bengal	132 MW	West Bengal	December, 2008
Teesta Low Dam Stage-IV, West Bengal	160 MW	West Bengal	September, 2009

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Financial and Technical Assistance to States

2189. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to financially and technically assist those States who do not have their own power generating facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to assist such States depending upon their projects; and

(d) the demands of the Government of Goa for upgradation, improvement of power supply in the State pending with Government?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Under the Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (AG&SP), financial assistance in the form of interest subsidy is provided by the Central Govt. for increasing power generation in the State. Under this scheme, so far, in the 10th Plan about Rs. 1279 crores has been released.

As per the present policy of Government, States/UTs are generally allocated share of Power from central sector projects based on the guidelines issued in April, 2000. There is 15% unallocated share in the Central Sector projects which is allocated to the needy States/UTs by the Ministry of Power separately.

Financial assistance is also provided to the NE States by the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region from its schemes of Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources and the North Eastern Council for augmenting their power generating capacity.

(d) Goa is at persent being given a firm allocation of 273 MW and 373 MW out of unallocated power from Central Generating Stations. No request from the Government of Goa for allocation of power is pending with the Government. Further, no loan proposal is pending with Power Finance Corporation. Power Finance Corporation has not received any loan proposal from Govt. of Goa during Financial Year 2006-07. The Government has, so far, sanctioned 7 projects to the State of Goa amounting to Rs. 288.94 crore under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme and released Rs. 113.40 crore so far.

Setting up of Transmission line from Sri Lanka

†2190. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken any decision on the proposal of setting up of transmission line from Sri Lanka to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of this proposal;

(c) whether the information regarding consumer price of power in Sri Lanka has been obtained before giving consideration to this proposal;

(d) if so, the details of the prices; and

(e) the types of fuel used for power generation in Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) It has been decided to set up a Steering Committee and Task force comprising officials of the Government of India and Government of Sri Lanka to examine the feasibility of the proposal to set up a transmission link between Sri Lanka and India.

Hydro Electricity Generation Capacity

†2191. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hydro-electricity generation capacity in the country is 1,50,000 MW out of which only 33,600 MW is likely to be utilized;

(b) if not, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any policy regarding the partnership of private sector for utilization of the remaining capacity;

(d) if so, the details of this policy together with the generation capacity of the projects in respect of which construction work has been entrusted to the private sector on the basis of this policy; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the estimated average per unit tariff of electricity in these projects of private sector and how it can be compared with the average per unit tariff of the projects of National Hydro Power Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) As per the re-asessment studies completed by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in 1987, the hydro electric potential of the country in terms of installed capacity has been estimated to be about 1,48,700 MW, out of which a capacity of 30,164 MW (20.3%) has already been developed and 13,616 MW (9.2%) of capacity is under development. In addition, Pumped Storage Schemes aggregating to 3,659 MW are under operation and three schemes aggregating to 2,150 MW are under construction.

(c) and (d) The policy to encourage greater participation of private sector in power generation was announced in 1991. The Government of India announced a Policy on hydro power development in August, 1998 which lays emphasis on increasing private investment in the power sector through Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and joint ventures. The Electricity Act, 2003 has created conducive environment for investments in all segments of the industry both for public sector and private sector by removing barriers to entry. The National Electricity Policy (February, 2005) also lays emphasis on private sector participation in generation including hydro generation.

Water including water power being a state subject, the State Government have their own policies on hydro power development including encouraging paticipation of private sector.

At present, seven schemes with an installed capacity of 2,191 MW are under construction in the private sector. Further, 43 schemes (14,146MW) have been allocated by the States for implementation in the private sector.

(e) The cost of power generation from hydro projects is site specific depending upon the geology and hydrology, the type of project-run-of-the river or storage—and complexities involved in the construction of the project like tunneling, underground power house etc. The tariffs of hydroelectric projects therefore, cannot be compared.

Bidding for Mega Power Projects

†2192. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tenders were invited for the construction of two mega power generation projects in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat during the last month;

(b) if so, whether power generation companies in private and Government sector had made bids in this regard;

(c) if so, the names of these companies and the tariff quoted by each of these with regard to per unit electricity, project-wise;

(d) whether many of these undertakings were having the facilities of Navrathna industry also; and

(e) if so, the names of such undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Tariff based bids were invited for development of Sasan Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPP) in Madhya Pradesh and Mundra UMPP in Gujarat and same were submitted by bidders in December, 2006.

(b) to (e) The bidders from private and government sector participated in the bid process. M/s NTPC was the only Nav Ratna and PSU company which bid for Sasan UMPP. As per the competitive bidding guidelines issued by Govt. of India, the bid details are required to be made public after the contracts are signed with the successful bidder. The details of the bidders are as below:—

(A) List of Bidders for Sasan

1. Essar Power Ltd.
2. Jaiprakash Associates Limited
3. Jindal Steel & Power Limited
4. Globeleq Singapore Pte, Lanco Infratech Limited
5. L & T

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

6. NTPC Ltd.

7. Reliance Energy Generation Limited

8. Sterlite Industries Limited

9. Tata Power Company Limited

10. Torrent Power AEC Limited

(B) List of Bidders for Mundra

1. Adani Exports Limited, IDFC, Gujarat Adani Port Limited

2. Essar Power Ltd.

3. L & T

4. Reliance Energy Generation Limited

5. Sterlite Industries Limited

6. Tata Power Company Limited

Power Sharing Agreement

†2193. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement relating to the partnership in hydel power projects in the Punjab has been signed between the Central Government and the State Government of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the share of Rajasthan fixed in those projects; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Cental Power Authority/Water Commission has prepared a background paper relating to the share of Rajasthan in these projects; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) An agreement was reached between the States of Punjab, Haryana

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

& Rajasthan and Government of India on 10.5.1984 wherein it was agreed that in view of the claims raised by Haryana & Rajasthan for sharing of power in Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project, Mukerian Hydel Project, Thein Dam Project, UBDC Stage-II and Shahpur Kandi Hydel Scheme, the Government of India shall refer the matter to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for its opinion. A reference was to be made to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for its opinion. A reference was to be made to the Hon'ble Supreme Court seeking its opinion whether the States of Rajasthan and Haryana are entitled to a share in the power generated from these hydel schemes and in case they are, what would be the share of each State. It was agreed that the Hon'ble Supreme Court's opinion obtained by Government of India shall be remitted to the signatory States and shall be binding on them. In order to resolve the issue amicably, a number of formal and informal discussions have taken place since 1984. So far no consensus has emerged due to divergent views. Further, consequent upon the enactment of the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 by the Government of Punjab terminating all its agreements on sharing of water with the other States, the Union Government has referred the matter to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for seeking its advice.

(c) A Committee was constituted in the Central Electricity Authority in February, 1999 for preparing a background paper on sharing of power in the hydroelectric power stations of Punjab. The Committee invited views of the concerned States in the matter. After analyzing various points raised by the States of Rajasthan, Haryana & Himachal Pradesh in support of their claims and in the absence of the observations of the Government of Punjab, the Committee concluded that it would be in the best interest of all the concerned States that the agreement already reached between the States of Punjab, Haryana & Rajasthan and Government of India on 10.5.1984 be followed.

Capacity expansion by NTPC

2194. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC propose to spend Rs. 9,000 crore for creating 8,000 MW capacity in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what would be the addition of power under this project in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) NTPC Ltd. plans to invest Rs. 160,732 crores during XI Plan. During the year 2006-07 and 2007-08, NTPC plans to invest Rs. 9444 crore and Rs. 12,792 crore, respectively on its ongoing/new projects. Capacity addition envisaged during 2006-07 and 2007-08 is 4210 MW. The details are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) Power allocation from existing NTPC Ltd. power stations in Eastern Region to Orissa State is as under:

Eastern Region Stations	Capacity (MW)	Allocation to GRIDCO, Orissa (MW)
Farakka	1600	218
Kahalgaon-I	840	106
Talcher STPS-I	1000	318
Talcher TPS	460	460
TOTAL:		1102

Further, details of power allocated/requisitioned by GRIDCO, Orissa from NTPC's upcoming projects in Eastern Region are as under:

Sl. No.	Project	Capacity (MW)	Capacity requisitioned by GRIDCO (MW)
1.	Kahalgaon-II	Phase-I—1000 MW Phase-II— 500 MW	74 (Already allocated)
2.	Barh-I	1980	100
3.	Barh-II	1320	200
4.	North Karanpura	1980	198
5.	Nabinagar	1000	100

Statement

Details of the Ongoing/New Projects envisaged for benefits during XIth Plan

Sl. No.	Project	State	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4
A. Ongoing Projects			
1	Kahalgaon-II Phase-I	Bihar	1000 (2x500)
2	Kahalgaon-II Phase-II	Bihar	500 (1x500)
3	Sipat-I	Chhattisgarh	1980 (3x660)
4	Sipat-II	Chhattisgarh	1000 (2x500)
5	Barh	Bihar	1980 (3x660)
6	Korba-III	Chhattisgarh	500 (1x500)
7	Koldam HEPP	Himachal Pradesh	800 (4x200)
8	Bhilai (Exp), JV with SAIL	Chhattisgarh	500 (2x250)
9	Loharinag Pala HEPP	Uttarakhand	600 (4x150)
10	NCTPP, Dadri-II	Uttar Pradesh	980 (2x490)
11	Farakka-III	West Bengal	500 (1x500)
12	Tapovan Vishnugad HEPP	Uttarakhand	520 (4x130)
	TOTAL : (A)		10860
* Best efforts are being put up to bring these units by 03/07			
B. Approved projects			
1	Nabinagar TPP—JV with Railways	Bihar	1000 (4x250)
	TOTAL : (B)		1000
C. Projects for which Main Plant bids have been received/invited			
1	Simhadri-II	Andhra Pradesh	1000 (2x500)
2	Ennore—JV with TNEB	Tamil Nadu	1000 (2x500)
3	Badarpur-III	Delhi	1000 (2x500)

1	2	3	4
4	Aravali STPP-Jhajjar @	Haryana	1500 (3x500)
5	Barh-II	Bihar	1320 (2x660)
6	North Karanpura STPP	Jharkhand	1980 (3x660)
7	Kawas-II $	Gujarat	1300 (2x650)
8	Jhanor Gandhar-II $	Gujarat	1300 (2x650)
	TOTAL : (C)		10,400
D.	**Projects for which FR is ready, clearance/approval in process**		
1	Bongaigaon	Assam	750 (3x250)
2	Mauda	Maharashtra	1000 (2x500)
	TOTAL: : (D)		1,750
	GRAND TOTAL : (A+B+C+D)		**24,010**

$ Main plant bids have been received, however these projects will be taken up only after signing of GSPA (Matter Sub-judice)

@ To be implemented by Aravali Power Private Company Limited, a JV between NTPC, IPGCL and HPGCL

Further for Rajiv Gandhi CCPP-II, Kayamkulam, Kerala - 1950 (3x650) MW, while NTPC have obtained all necessary clearances up to SPCB, processing for MOEF clearance & further action on project is subject to fuel tie-up and GSPA signing.

Hydel power potential in North Bengal

2195. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been made to ascertain hydel power potential in North Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) As per the re-assessment study of the hydro electric potential of the

country completed by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in 1987, the hydro electric potential of the State of West Bengal in terms of probable installed capacity was assessed as 2,841 MW. The details of the 7 schemes identified in the State are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	River/Basin	Probable Installed Capacity (MW)
1.	Rammam I	Rammam	70
2.	Rammam II	Rammam	85
3.	Rammam III	Rammam	100
4.	Tista high dam	Tista	2505
5.	Jaldhaka I	Jaldhaka	36
6.	Jaldhaka II	Jaldhaka	12
7.	Balasan	Balasan	33
	TOTAL :		2841

All these schemes are located in North Bengal.

UMPP at Sasan

2196. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ownership pattern of the lowest bidder for the Ultra-Mega Power Project (UMPP) at Sasan has changed;

(b) if so, the details of the same and its impact on their eligibility as per the bid conditions;

(c) if not, whether the techno-economic reasonability of the tariff quoted by the lowest bidder has been assessed vis-a-vis cost of similar project elsewhere with proven technology and performance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The lead member of the lowest bidding consortium viz. M/s. Globeleq Singapore Pte. Ltd. (GSPL) has sent a communication informating the

special purpose vehicle (SPV) that the holding Company, M/s. Globeleq Ltd. has sold its 100% interest in GSPL to M/s. Prince Stone Investments Ltd., Mauritius (60%) and M/s. Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. (40%). The impact on eligibility of M/s. Globeleq Singapore Pte. Ltd. is being examined by the SPV under the provisions of the bidding documents etc.

(c) and (d) The guidelines for tariff based competitive bidding, issued by the Central Government under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, provides that the bidder who has quoted the lowest levelized tariff as per the evaluation procedure, shall be considered for the award. The evaluation committee have the right to reject all price bids if the rates quoted are not aligned to the prevailing market prices. The evaluation of bids in respect of Sasan UMPP was carried out through an Apex Level Evaluation Committee, which also had senior representatives of major procuring States *viz.* M.P., U.P. and Haryana, in accordance with the evaluation procedure prescribed in the bid document.

Alliance between PGCIL and AEP

2197. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. had discussions with American Electric Power to explore the possibilities of forming a strategic alliance for executing transmission projects in the United States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an MoU has been signed between PGCIL and AEP; and

(d) what are the modalities fixed for strategic alliance to set up transmission system in the US?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) have informed that representatives of American Electric Power (AEP), USA visited PGCIL during last week of January, 2007 and briefed them about emerging opportunities in the transmission sector of USA. AEP invited PGCIL to jointly explore the implementation of new transmission lines in USA. PGCIL have sought details on the project and modalities of cooperation from AEP.

Tala Hydel Project

2198. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power from 170 MW first generating unit of the Rs. 4,124 Tala Project in Bhutan has started flowing into India from September;

(b) if so, whether the beneficiaries include northern region States of U.P., Delhi, Punjab and J&K;

(c) whether the remaining units of 1020 MW projects slated for commissioning shortly, will also help India in getting more power from Bhutan; and

(d) by when, the rest of the units are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The first generating unit (170 MW) of Tala Project in Bhutan was commissioned on 29.7.2006 and the power has started flowing into India from August, 2006.

(b) Allocation of Tala power has been done to the States of Eastern Region to improve their hydro thermal mix and these States are to surrender equivalent thermal power (in lieu of allocation of Tala power) to the States of the Northern Region linked to the commissioning of various units of Tala project. The States likely to be benefited from the above arrangement are West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa in the Eastern Region and Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, U.P. and J&K in the Northern Region.

(c) 5 out of 6 units of Tala project have already been commissioned. As per the agreement between Government of India and Royal Government of Bhutan for Tala Project, power surplus of the requirement of Bhutan is to be sold to India.

(d) The last units is expected to be commissioned by end of March, 2007.

Plan to increase electricity generation

2199. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister, while dedicating the 3000 MW Talchar Super Thermal Power Station to the nation, assured the nation to provide big investment in power sector during the next five years;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission had estimated that the electricity generation capacity would need to go up from the current level of 1.31 lakh MW to more than 8 lakh MW by 2030;

(c) if so, whether any concrete action plan has been prepared by Government to increase the electricity generation as projected by Planning Commission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The report of the Expert Committee on Integrated Energy Policy has estimated that the power generation capacity, inclusive of captive plants, must increase to 8,00,000 MW in 2031-32 from the current level.

(c) and (d) Identification of new generation projects and their execution is ongoing process. To increase the generation capacity in line with the growth in demand of electricity, the steps taken, *inter alia,* include:—

(i) Proposal of a capacity addition of 76,460 MW during 11th Plan to meet the requirements.

(ii) Creation of a National Grid for optimum utilization of generation capacity and inter-regional transfer of power.

(iii) Implementation of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW each to achieve benefit of economy of scale.

(iv) Launch of 50,000 MW hydro initiative for coordinated development of hydro sector.

(v) Creation of a shelf of sites for locating thermal capacity of over 1,00,000 MW by Central Electricity Authority.

(vi) Dispensation of requirement of Techno-economic Clearance for setting up of thermal projects to speed up sanction process.

(vii) Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation have mobilized themselves to see that the good projects are not hampered due to lack of funds.

Rural Electrification in Himachal Pradesh

2200. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana under the Rural Electrification Programme recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the broad objectives of this Yojana;

(c) the funds allocated to Himachal Pradesh under the Yojana;

(d) whether village Panchayats are also to be involved in implementing the Yojana to achieve the desired goal; and

(e) if so, the number of rural population below poverty line targeted to provide electricity under this scheme in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) was launched by Government in April, 2005.

(b) RGGVY envisages electrification of all villages and provide access to electricity to all rural households through creation of:

(i) Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with at least one 33/11 KV (or 66/11 KV) sub-station in each block.

(ii) Village Electrification Infrastructure (VEI) with at least one distribution transformer in each village/habitation.

(iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) Systems on conventional sources where grid supply is not feasible or cost-effect and which is not being covered by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

(iv) Free connections are provided to the BPL families.

90% capital subsidy is provided under RGGVY for creation of such infrastructure. To ensure revenue sustainability, deployment of franchisee is mandatory in the management of rural distribution.

(c) Funds under RGGVY are disbursed in instalments commensurating with the progress reported by the implementing agencies in award and execution of sanctioned projects.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) As per Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for 12 districts received from Himachal Pradesh, 12483 Below Poverty Line (BPL) households are targeted for electrification under RGGVY.

Power transmission in project

2201. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation proposes to launch a critical power transmission project connecting the North-east with the rest of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far will this project help power-starved regions to get additional power to control power-cuts, especially in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) have planned a scheme for evacuation and transmission of power to be generated in the new power projects in the North-East Region, Sikkim and Bhutan to the States in the Northern and Western Regions. The scheme envisages a ± 800 kV HVDC bipole of 6000 MW capacity.

(c) The States of Northern and Western Regions, including Delhi, would be the beneficiaries of this Transmission Project.

Status of Mega Power Projects

2202. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of various Mega Power Projects announced;

(b) whether the reports that a foreign partner has withdrawn from the Sasan Mega Power Project is correct; and

(c) if so, the reasons for withdrawal and whether it will have any impact on this important aspect of India's infrastructure building efforts?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Central Electricity Authority has identified nine sites for development of coal based Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPP) of about 4000 MW capacity each under tariff based competitive bidding. Bidding process in respect of four projects *i.e.* Sasan in Madhya Pradesh, Mundra in Gujarat, Krishnapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Tilaiya in Jharkhand has commenced. Letter of Intent has already been issued in respect of Sasan and Mundra UMPPs. The schedule date of submission of bids in respect of Krishnapatnam UMPP is 10th April, 2007. The date for submission of request for qualification documents in respect of Tilaiya UMPP is 20th March, 2007. Initiating the bidding process in respect of Girye in Maharashtra, Tadri in Karnataka, Akaltara in Chhattisgarh and Orissa UMPP is contingent upon the availability of requisite clearances and confirmation from the respective State Governments. In respect of locating UMPP in Tamil Nadu feasibility of development of related port facilities is the key issue to be addressed by the State Government prior to initiating the bidding process of this project.

(b) and (c) According to information made available by Power Finance Corporation M/s. Globeleq Singapore Pte. Ltd. (GSPL) [Lead member of Globeleq—Lanco Consortium] is still a part of the consortium in case of Sasan UMPP.

Overseas projects of NTPC

2203. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC has taken up a 500 MW coal-based thermal project at Trincomalee in Sri Lanka recently;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) whether NTPC has taken up any other power project in other countries of the world;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that there is some problem in selecting the site, environmental clearance, etc. in Trincomalee; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and how NTPC is planning to go ahead?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) NTPC Ltd. proposes to set up a coal based power plant in Trincomalee area in Sri Lanka, and has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Government of Sri Lanka and Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) on 29.12.2006 to set up a 2x250 MW power plant through a joint venture Company with CEB on 50:50 basis.

(c) and (d) NTPC Ltd. is also exploring the possibilities of mutual cooperation in power sector with Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN), which amongst other includes the proposal to set up Coal/Gas based power projects in Nigeria by NTPC Ltd.

(e) and (f) Subsequent to signing of MoA, a team from NTPC Ltd. visited Sri Lanka in January, 2007 and collected necessary details of alternative sites with a view to select suitable site.

Merchant Power Plants

2204. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) how far the proposed Merchant Power Plants, where a capacity of 12,000 MW is envisaged, would be able to meet the target, especially in view of prevailing red-tapism;

(b) if so, whether the power produced by them will form part of national grid or each plant will have full distribution rights also; and

(c) if so, whether Government will exercise the price control mutually acceptable and interest of economically weaker sections will be safeguarded?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) In order to facilitate the development of electricity markets, the Ministry of Power has issued an approach paper and guidelines on development of Merchant Power Plants, for which coal linkage/coal blocks allotment would be available. Unlike conventional generating plant bound by take or pay Power Purchase Agreements, Merchant Power Plants compete for customers and absorb the full market risk. There are no guarantees or minimum off-take of their output. Typically, the risk of a Merchant Power

Plant is carried on the balance sheet of the promoter. Merchant Power Plants can be set up only with the support of the State governments where the plants are proposed to be located since the land, water and other infrastructure facilities required for the power plant need to be provided by the State Government. While this initiative is still at a nascent stage, its success, however, would, to a great extent, depend on availability of reliable data and information for plant sites and other inputs so that the developers then can take further appropriate action to set up Merchant Power Plants.

(b) It is envisaged that MPPs would sell power to bulk consumers/ distribution utilities through short term contracts. For transmission, they would need to seek open access in transmission by applying to the CTU/ STU for connectivity with the regional grid/State grid. The Merchant plants selling their power through interconnection with the regional/State grid would form part of the national grid network.

(c) Unlike traditional utilities, Merchant Power Plants compete for customers and absorb the full market risk. There are no guarantees that they have a minimum off-take of their output. Typically the risk of a Merchant Power Plant is carried on the balance sheet of the promoter. The tariff for the merchant Plants would be market determined depending upon the grid conditions and the requirements that they meet. These plants would normally not enter into long term Power Purchase Agreements (PPA). Since these plants do not carry any long term purchase obligations on the part of the buyers, they would essentially have to arrive at market determined tariffs acceptable to the buyers.

Further, the National Electricity Policy and the Tariff Policy state that consumers below poverty line who consume below a specified level, say 30 units per month, may receive a special support through cross subsidy. Tariffs for such designated group of consumers will be at least 50% of the average cost of supply.

Evaluation of Ultra Mega Power Projects

†2205. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed the primary study with regard to identification of ultra mega projects to be set up in future;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the projects evaluated so far; and

(c) the number of such projects which have become operational along with the location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Central Electricity Authority has identified nine possible sites for development of coal based ultra mega power projects of about 4000 MW capacity each under tariff based competitive bidding. Under the initiative, following sites have been identified and are under various stages of development:

(i) Sasan, Madhya Pradesh.

(ii) Mundra, Gujarat.

(iii) Krishnapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

(iv) Akaltara, Chhattisgarh.

(v) Tadri, Karnataka.

(vi) Girye, Maharashtra.

(vii) Sundergarh, Orissa.

(viii) Cheyyur, Tamil Nadu.

(ix) Tilaiya, Jharkhand.

Bidding process in respect of four projects *i.e.* Sasan, Mundra, Krishnapatnam and Tilaiya has already been initiated.

Power shortage in Karnataka

2206. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of power in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of power projects being run with the World Bank assistance in Karnataka for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Karnataka faced energy shortage of 1.9% and peak shortage of 7.6%